



Avoiding Plagiarism



Aims of this session



- 1. Understand what plagiarism is and what is covered by Marjon's definition of plagiarism**
- 2. Understand why people plagiarise and the consequences**
- 3. Develop your understanding of techniques to avoid plagiarism through examples**

Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity

Honesty

Respect

Trust

Fairness

Responsibility

Courage

What is plagiarism?

Academic Misconduct*

- ⚙ **Plagiarism**
- ⚙ **Self-plagiarism**
- ⚙ **Third party 'authors'**
- ⚙ **Making false claims**
- ⚙ **Unauthorised collusion**
- ⚙ **Cheating**
- ⚙ **Impersonation**
- ⚙ **Unethical conduct**

The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.

Why do people plagiarise?

Fear of failure

Increase marks

To help a friend

Everybody does it

Little understanding of plagiarism

Laziness/convenience

Teaching/learning issues

Assignment deadlines

Cultural differences

Pride in plagiarising

Poor academic skills

Lack of confidence in abilities or self

Pressure – academic, familial, social etc.

Lack of incentive

No awareness of plagiarism as an issue

Franklin-Stoakes & Newstead (1995)

Devlin & Gray (2007)

University of Auckland (2019)

Franklin-Stoakes, A. & Newstead, S. (1995). Undergraduate cheating: who does what and why? *Studies in Higher Education*, 20(2), pp 159-172.

Devlin, M. & Gray, K. (2007). In their own words: a qualitative study of the reasons Australian university students plagiarise. *Higher Education Research and Development*, 26(2), pp 181-198.

University of Auckland. (2019). Academic Integrity [Online]. Retrieved from <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/academic-integrity>

How can we avoid it?

University of Auckland (2019)

- ⚙ Time management
- ⚙ Stay motivated
- ⚙ Work alongside others
- ⚙ Learn new skills
- ⚙ Invest time in anti-plagiarism skills



Avoid it: Paraphrase

Paraphrasing

The expression of a meaning using different words especially to achieve greater clarity.

Components of a good paraphrase

- ⚙ Retains and honours the original meaning
- ⚙ Demonstrates your subject synthesis
- ⚙ Always acknowledges the original source

Paraphrasing techniques

1

Use synonyms

2

Change the form of words

3

Change the grammatical structure

1

Use synonyms

Soller (2010) states that 'Companies that show a genuine interest in charitable activities can earn the respect of the buying public.'



Businesses that **demonstrate** a **real** interest in **not-for-profit** activities can **gain** the respect of **consumers** (Soller, 2010).

2

Change the form of words

Michaels (2009) states that: 'Some charities owe their success to the selective use of consultants.'



Some charities are more **successful** as consultants are employed **selectively** (Michaels, 2009).

3

Change the grammatical structure

Polson (2009) states: 'Persuading the public to sign up to monthly donations is a more cost-effective policy than collecting single contributions.'



Collecting single contributions is **not as effective as** persuading the public to sign up to monthly donations (Polson, 2009).

Avoid it: Summarise

Summarising

Give a brief statement of the main points of a topic, text or argument

Components of a good summary

- ⚙️ Transforms a large amount of information into a smaller volume
- ⚙️ Captures the points that are salient to your argument
- ⚙️ Demonstrates your understanding of a concept in a succinct way

Summarising techniques

1

Map a concept with bullet points

2

Don't include extra information

3

Remind your reader that it isn't your work

Part of Summary	Contents
Introduction Sentence	In "My Favorite Shoe," Treyvon Jones explains (insert main idea).
Supporting Arguments	Jones supports this view by pointing out (insert author's supporting arguments).
Final Point	In addition, (insert author's overarching argument and point).



In "My Favorite Shoe," Treyvon Jones (explains that Nike shoes are the best brand of running shoe for serious track athletes. Jones supports this view by pointing out that Nike shoes are more comfortable, last longer, and provide more cushioning for the feet. He notes that the statistics from sales and scientific evidence of how Nike shoes are better for the feet support his claim. In addition, Jones points out that most professional runners use Nike and he tells his own story of how he won the 100-meter men's competition after switching to Nike shoes (2006, p. 45).

Avoid it: Quote

Quoting

Repeat or copy out words from an original source exactly as they appear

Components of a good quote

- ⚙ Consistent formatting
- ⚙ Edited to enhance the meaning
- ⚙ Short and succinct

Quoting techniques

1

Edit your quotes

2

Omit material for emphasis

3

Quote warts and all

1

Edit your quotes

“Reading is also a process and it also changes you” (Atwood, 2008).



Margaret Atwood wanted her readers to realize that “reading is also a process and it also changes [them]” (2008, p. 30)

2

Omit material for emphasis

"In a book of that title, Anderson observes that with the possible exception of what he calls 'primordial villages,' human communities exist as imagined entities in which people 'will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them or even hear of them, yet in the mind of each member lives the image of their communion'" (Pratt, 2008, p. 582).



As Pratt notes, "Anderson observes that . . . human communities exist as imagined entitles in which people 'will never know most of their fellow-members . . . ,' yet in the mind of each member lives the image of their communion'" (2008, p. 582).

3

Quote warts and all

"Do to the current market situation, several gas stations ask their customers to pre-pay."



As the *Seattle Weekly* reports, "Do [sic] to the current market situation, several gas stations *ask* [emphasis added] their customers to pre-pay.

Scenario 1

Sarah and Beckie are working on their assignments together in the library.

Beckie is struggling to find materials to read for her assignment, so Sarah give her the reading list she has compiled and used for her essay.



Is this plagiarism?

Scenario 2

Jacob has to submit a drawing for his assessment portfolio. He is struggling to complete it, so his room mate Poppy offers to complete the drawing for him. It takes Poppy 5 minutes to finish the drawing and Jacob submits it as part of his portfolio.



Is this plagiarism?

Scenario 3

Amir is working on a group project with 2 other people, Kat and Aaron. Aaron has cancelled their second meeting and Kat has not completed her section of work. The deadline is in two days, and Amir wants a good mark so he completes the project and puts Kat and Aaron's name on it.

Is this plagiarism?



Scenario 4

Naomi is calculating her findings for her undergraduate dissertation. The results do not support the argument she has made in her literature review – but only just! Her brother Andrew, a postgraduate student, tells her to tweak the results. He says that he did it in his dissertation, as did some of his friends.



What should Naomi do?

Scenario 5

Matt is searching the web for an article to use in his essay. He finds a good paragraph and copies it into his essay to be paraphrased, but is distracted by a phone call. When he returns to his essay, Matt continues to write, but does not provide a reference for the article. When the work is returned, Matt's lecturer states that he believes that Matt has plagiarised in his work.



What can Matt learn from this?

Plagiarism FAQs

Do I need to cite something if I have taken it from another essay I wrote?

What if I cite something incorrectly? Is this still regarded as plagiarism?

Can I use a dictionary definition without referencing it?

What if I can't find the author for the work I'm using?

Do I have to reference something that is common knowledge?

Can I use external agencies to correct my work?

Should I study alone to avoid plagiarism?

I can use as much material from a text, as long as I cite it, right?

Support for Avoiding Plagiarism

- ⚙️ [Turnitin](#) - really good resources explaining a number of plagiarism avoidance techniques
- ⚙️ [Plagiarism.org](#) - really useful blog answering a number of student queries
- ⚙️ [APA Blog](#) – how to cite absolutely anything in the APA style
- ⚙️ [Marjon Guidance on APA](#) < < this is the guidance you should follow!
- ⚙️ [APA Publication Manual](#) < < available in the library
- ⚙️ [Purdue Writing Lab](#) – more APA guidance
- ⚙️ [Enago Academy](#) – perspective of researchers on avoiding plagiarism
- ⚙️ [Grammarly Blog](#) – interesting look at some of the forms of plagiarism

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