

Cheating/Plagiarism 05.25.05

Definition of Cheating

Cheating is using someone else's words, work, and/or ideas and claiming them as your own.

Examples of Cheating

- Hiring someone to write a paper
- Buying a paper or project
- Sharing files (e.g., an Excel Worksheet) in a business class
- Copying homework
- Building on someone else's ideas without proper citations
- Letting your science lab partner do all the work and just putting your name on the final report
- Letting Dad build your cathedral for your Mod 10 Project
- Looking at another's test
- Turning in your brother's or sister's old Civil War project

Why You Shouldn't Cheat

- People's words, work, and/or ideas are considered "intellectual property" - meaning the creator owns them.
- For example, the courts ruled that individuals could not exchange music over Napster because the artists who created the songs owned them.
- Therefore, if you do use someone else's words, work, and/or ideas, give them credit where credit is due.

How We Know You Cheat

Teachers Know Your Writing

- Teachers know how students write. It doesn't take much to recognize what was written by a particular student or what was written by someone else - say on a website.

Your Work Is Too Similar

- When teachers read a set of tests, lab reports, essays, or papers, they do not forget what other students have written. There is a fine line between collaboration and plagiarism - don't cross it!

Paraphrasing

- Even though you reword someone else's words, you still must properly give them credit for the ideas you have built on. Use correct text citation.
- Don't fall into the trap of passing someone's ideas off as your own.

How You Get Caught

New Technology

- The staff at the high school can simply plug a phrase from your work into a simple search engine and find where in cyberspace you scammed an idea or paper.

Teachers Talk

- Teachers do talk to one another. You would be surprised to find out that some students have tried to turn in work in one class that their friends have turned in another teacher's class.

Teachers Remember

- Work that was turned in by a friend or relative years before can still be recognized by teachers if you try to turn it in again as your own work.

CONSEQUENCES OF CHEATING

The consequences for getting caught plagiarizing someone else's words, works, and/or ideas will range from failing the class to having to start from scratch on a new Senior Project topic.

Material above was taken from Lakeland High School
<http://academic.kellogg.cc.mi.us/k12lincolnm/cheating98.pdf>

How to Avoid Plagiarism

Choosing When to Give Credit

Need to Document	No Need to Document
<p>When you are using or referring to somebody else's words or ideas from a magazine, book, newspaper, song, TV program, movie, Web page, computer program, letter, advertisement, or any other medium</p> <p>When you use information gained through interviewing another person</p> <p>When you copy the exact words or a "unique phrase" from somewhere</p> <p>When you reprint any diagrams, illustrations, charts, and pictures</p> <p>When you use ideas that others have given you in conversations or over email</p>	<p>When you are writing your own experiences, your own observations, your own insights, your own thoughts, your own conclusions about a subject</p> <p>When you are using "<u>common knowledge</u>" — folklore, common sense observations, shared information within your field of study or cultural group</p> <p>When you are compiling generally accepted facts</p> <p>When you are writing up your own experimental results</p>

Making Sure You Are Safe

	Action during the writing process	Appearance on the finished product
When researching, note-taking, and interviewing	<p>Mark everything that is someone else's words with a big Q (for quote) or with big quotation marks</p> <p>Indicate in your notes which ideas are taken from sources (S) and which are your own insights (ME)</p> <p>Record all of the relevant documentation information in your notes</p>	<p>Proofread and check with your notes (or photocopies of sources) to make sure that anything taken from your notes is acknowledged in some combination of the ways listed below:</p> <p>Text citation Works Cited Page</p>
When paraphrasing and summarizing	<p>First, write your paraphrase and summary without looking at the original text, so you rely only on your memory.</p> <p>Next, check your version with the original for content, accuracy, and mistakenly borrowed phrases</p>	<p>Begin your summary with a statement giving credit to the source: According to Jonathan Kozol,</p> <p>Put any unique words or phrases that you cannot change, or do not want to change, in quotation marks: ... "savage inequalities" exist throughout our educational system (Kozol 45).</p>
When quoting directly	<p>Keep the person's name near the quote in your notes, and in your paper</p> <p>Select those direct quotes that make the most impact in your paper -- too many direct quotes may lessen your credibility and interfere with your style</p>	<p>Mention the person's name either at the beginning of the quote, in the middle, or at the end</p> <p>Put quotation marks around the text that you are quoting</p> <p>Indicate added phrases in brackets ([]) and omitted text with ellipses (. . .)</p> <p>Use text citation.</p>
When quoting indirectly	<p>Keep the person's name near the text in your notes, and in your paper</p> <p>Rewrite the key ideas using different words and sentence structures than the original text</p>	<p>Mention the person's name either at the beginning of the information, or in the middle, or at the end</p> <p>Double check to make sure that your words and sentence structures are different than the original text</p> <p>Use text citation.</p>

Deciding if something is "Common Knowledge"

Material is probably common knowledge if . . .

- You find the same information undocumented in at least five other sources
- You think it is information that your readers will already know
- You think a person could easily find the information with general reference sources

Material above was taken from Purdue University's Website

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r_plagiar.html