



Smucker Learning Center

connect the pieces for success

PLAGIARISM

The University of Akron defines plagiarism as “**the intentional or unintentional use of the words or ideas of another without acknowledging their source.**”

So what does that mean? Let’s break it down....

The intentional – You deliberately use someone else’s words or ideas.

That means you read something or heard someone say something and you decide to use it in your paper.

Or unintentional – You did not MEAN to use someone else’s words or ideas.

That means that you read something or heard someone say something and you forgot where it came from, but then you use it in your paper.

OR maybe you write something in your paper that you think sounds really good, but you forgot that you had read it somewhere.

OR maybe you accidentally write a quote as a paraphrase

OR maybe you put a quote in your paper and forget to include the in-text citation

Use of words or ideas of another – All unique ideas that someone else has written

This DOES include

statistics (like percentages),

data (like information gathered in a study),

analysis or interpretation of data (researcher’s or reporter’s thoughts about something that happened),

expert ideas, especially if they are not what most would believe (like someone thinking that the South should have won the Civil War)

This does NOT include common knowledge (facts that most everyone would know, like Dec. 25 is Christmas or the color green is a combination of blue and yellow).

Remember that this says both words and ideas. You CANNOT just change the wording of something and claim it as your own. It is still someone else’s idea.

Without acknowledging their source – You must include a citation in text to show where the information came from.

Both APA and MLA use parenthetical notations to indicate the source of the information.

Check the appropriate handout on the Writing Center web page for instructions.

It is NOT sufficient to write the list of references at the end of the paper.

So What Is Plagiarism?



Here is an original quote from an article:

“Rodney Glassman's 246-page research paper on teaching children about agriculture contains at least five identical or nearly identical sentences from earlier works by other authors, without footnotes or direct attribution to those works.

At the end of Glassman's dissertation, there are general citations of the authors' research in a section that lists reference materials” (Billeaud).

Taken from: Billeaud, Jacques. “Arizona US Senate Candidate Denies Plagiarism.” *The Seattle Times* 30

Sept. 2010. Web. 22 March 2011.

The following examples may be considered plagiarism:

Using quoted material without quotation marks

Example: Rodney Glassman's 246-page research paper on teaching children about agriculture contains at least five identical or nearly identical sentences from earlier works by other authors, without footnotes or direct attribution to those works (Billeaud).

Changing a few words of the source material and not using quotation marks and citation

Example: At the conclusion of Mr. Glassman's dissertation, there are broad citations of his research in a part that records reference materials (Billeaud).

Using quoted material without including the in-text citation

Example: “Rodney Glassman's 246-page research paper on teaching children about agriculture contains at least five identical or nearly identical sentences from earlier works by other authors, without footnotes or direct attribution to those works.”