



PLAGIARISM OCCURS WHEN SOMEONE:

- ~ Does not attribute words or ideas to a source
- ~ Uses quotes from another author's writing without citing that author's works
- ~ Cites, with quotations, portions of another author's work, but uses more of that work without quotation marks
- ~ Takes a paper, in whole or in part, from a site on the web or a "library" of already written papers
- ~ Steals (or buys) a paper from another student and then submits that paper as coursework
- ~ Submits the same paper twice for two different assignments
- ~ Takes the results of another's research and attempts to pass those results off as his or her own work

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In the above guide, plagiarism is defined. Some infractions are pretty obvious, but I thought that it would be helpful for you to keep a few other things in mind in order to avoid what I refer to as "accidental plagiarism." Your overt intention may not actually be to deceive or defraud, but you can still commit plagiarism accidentally – and it will still be regarded as plagiarism.

Some cardinal principles:

-  Avoid using complete sentences and the phrasing of an author on your note cards as much as possible. You starting taking notes in November, and by the time you are drafting your paper, you may have forgotten that these phrases are not your own analysis of the information. You may look at the ideas expressed and think, "I'm brilliant!" While you may be and should be "brilliant" about your topic by the time you begin drafting the paper, the phrasing is not yours and using it could be considered plagiarism. Instead, you should try to "extract the facts" on your note cards, and clearly mark any opinions and analyses of authors as such.
-  When drafting your composition, always try to express ideas **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**. This requires that you have read a great deal about your topic, be thoroughly

knowledgeable about it, understand its significance, and can speak about it with the authority of the expert that you have become by now. You know a great deal about your topic and therefore you should always attempt to use your own wording. Only use another's wording, including specialty phrasing, when you believe that the idea is best expressed by him or her. When that happens, the other author's wording must be set off in quotation marks. Please notice I am saying "wording," not just sentences.

- ✚ Always use your own organizational patterns for the information. Borrowing another individual's organizational scheme is also plagiarism. This is why you were told not to use chapter titles or catch phrases from a book for the aspects on your note cards. You must do your own thinking, not borrow someone else's.
- ✚ Remember that this research paper is not a report! You are not merely reporting facts about an incident, movement, or event. You are analyzing information that you have collected from a variety of sources to come up with your unique perspective and position on the topic. The ultimate purpose of the paper is to represent what **you** think about the topic, not just report what others have written about it.