Plagiarism: What You Need to Know
In the academic community, students and faculty make valuable contributions to their fields of study through research.
Producing such research involves hard work. Researchers go through many steps to design, fund, implement, and publish their studies.
Once those research studies are published, the person who produced them is considered the owner of the work.
Being the owner of an intellectual work such as a research study comes with certain benefits. One of those benefits is being properly acknowledged whenever another researcher uses the ideas from that work.
When you complete a research project for a course, you are expected to give proper credit to the authors of any sources from which you borrowed ideas, usually through citation.
In this way, you acknowledge the hard work the original author put into their contribution to a field of knowledge.
Failing to acknowledge someone else's work in this way is considered a misuse of the information. This type of misuse is called plagiarism.
Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words or ideas without giving proper credit to the original author. It can be intentional or unintentional.
Whether it is intentional or unintentional, plagiarism comes with consequences. You might fail the assignment, fail the course, or even be asked to leave the university.
Plagiarism comes in many forms. The most common are cheating, non-attribution, and patchwriting.
Cheating is a form of plagiarism in which someone borrows or purchases a paper written by someone else and submits the paper as their own work.
In the academic environment, all of the work you submit should be your own. Producing your own work is how you show what you have learned as the result of a course or assignment.
Non-attribution is when you use someone’s exact wording and fail to properly acknowledge the source.
To avoid this type of plagiarism, use a direct quotation with correct citation.
Learn more about using and citing quotations in your writing here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/1/
Patchwriting is a type of copying where you substitute your own words or phrases into an original passage without changing the structure of the writing.
In patchwriting, the changes are not substantial enough to count as your original work.
Patchwriting can be a useful part of the writing process but it is not acceptable in a final work submitted for a grade or publication.
To avoid this form of plagiarism, try paraphrasing or summarizing the information and include a proper citation.
Learn more about paraphrasing and summarizing here: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/02/
There are several citation styles. You may need to use different citation styles for different research projects.

• APA
• Chicago
• MLA
• And more
Ask your professor which style is appropriate for your project.

- APA
- Chicago
- MLA
- And more
No matter which citation style you use, there are many websites and books that can help you learn how to cite sources.
Find more resources for learning about citation here: http://libguides.library.albany.edu/citationgenerators
Thank you for completing this tutorial!

We hope you found the information in this tutorial helpful.

Questions? Please feel free to contact us. Help is available 24/7.

http://library.albany.edu/help/im

If you are completing this tutorial as an assignment, 

click here to fill out the credit form.