



# Academic Integrity and proper citation

# Plagiarism

- Types of plagiarism:
  - Failure to cite borrowed ideas.
  - Failure to cite quotations of others' work.
  - Paraphrasing too closely, especially long passages or multiple paragraphs.
  - Self plagiarism.

# Borrowed ideas

- Did you get an idea directly from a source?
- Cite it.
- Example:
  - Author claims that the French Revolution was caused by the Monarchy's massive debts.
  - The author did the research, give the author credit.

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- Did you get an idea indirectly from a source?
  - Example:
    - The French Monarchy lost power due to its massive debts (Author's Idea). This power vacuum allowed the middle class to rise in political prominence. (Your idea).
    - Cite the Author's idea. Don't cite your idea.
    - Good practice: establish your facts with solid sources, cite them, then provide your interpretation of what those facts indicate.

# Citing quotations

- Are you using a direct quote from someone else?
- Put it between quotation marks and cite it.
- Easy, isn't it?

# Three or more words

- What constitutes a quote:
- Technically: taking **three or more words in a row** from your source material.
  - So, taking the phrase “uncertain political climate” from your source without putting it quotes is plagiarism.
  - But in practice, you’ll never be called on “In other words” or “The next year” or any other extremely common string of words.

# One-word plagiarism

- Exception to the three-word rule:  
Presenting someone else's new term or phrase as your own invention.
  - “This new form of civil disobedience, which I'll call *ecoterrorism*, took many forms...”
  - Better: “This new form of civil disobedience, which Jane Robbins dubbed ‘*ecoterrorism*’, took many forms.”

# Good Quoting

- Good practice: quote only the quotable.
  - American Revolutionary Patrick Henry said “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!”
  - Is this quote interesting?
    - Yes.
  - Would paraphrasing the information improve it?
    - No.

# Bad quoting

- Don't quote the less-than-quotable.
  - Robert Reich, Secretary of Labor during the Clinton administration, said that “the Employment rate increased 1.3% in the second quarter of 1994.”
  - Is this precise combination of words interesting?
  - The *information* might be interesting, or relevant to your point, but there's little reason for the exact quote.

# Online Resources for Plagiarists

- Any relevant article on the internet.
- Term-paper sites offer a variety of papers on different subjects.
  - Some require payment
  - Some make money on advertising revenue, or by collecting email addresses to resell elsewhere

# Online resources for Instructors

- Easiest method: Google search engine + one unusual phrase
  - Students who plagiarize don't usually dig deep for their source material.
- Anti-plagiarism websites and software: ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) and others)
  - Collect frequently-used online term papers and compares them to submitted student papers
  - Collects submitted student-written papers for a given class and compares them to other students' papers.

## ...wait, whose intellectual property?

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# “Medicaments”

- “The use of medicaments in professional sports...”
- Medicaments: a term for medicines or pharmaceuticals. Used widely in the early and mid 1800’s, but outdated by 1880-1890.
  - Occasionally still in use among students of English outside the US, particularly in schools in India and the Middle East.
- My personal record: identified plagiarism four words into a paper.

# Figures, Illustrations, Photos.

- Did you draw the illustration, plot the graph, or take the photo?
  - No?
  - Cite it.
  - If you don't cite it, the reader will assume you created it yourself.
  - In classes, it will save the instructor or TA time if you label your own illustrations
  - (Note: if you make the graph but found the data elsewhere, cite the source of the data)

# Simultaneous discovery

- Simultaneous discovery:
  - If you generate your own idea about a subject, and the idea is nearly identical to a source you haven't read yet, you aren't obligated to cite it.
  - This can be hard to distinguish from genuine plagiarism.

# Unintentional Plagiarism

- Comes from:
  - Paraphrasing sources, then editing and accidentally changing it to something too close to the original.
  - Forgetting to note the source of an idea or quote you've found, and then forgetting it is not your own.
- It can be difficult or impossible to prove this mistake was accidental.

# Self plagiarism

- How can you plagiarize yourself?
- By turning in the same paper to two different classes.
- Note: not all instructors consider this plagiarism.
  - (For instance, I don't)
  - Always ask first.
  - Also: your TAs and professors can have different ideas about what constitutes plagiarism. The professor makes the final decision.

# General Knowledge

- You do not need to cite general knowledge.
- What's general knowledge?
  - Force equals mass times acceleration.
  - *Romeo and Juliet* was written by William Shakespeare.
  - The United States of America declared its independence in 1776.

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- Is this general information?
    - Human and chimpanzee DNA are 99% identical.
    - A wide variety of mental illnesses are mislabeled as Schizophrenia.
    - Roosevelt knew about the impending Pearl Harbor attack days before December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941.
  - Note: as you advance in a field, what's considered "General Knowledge" can change.
    - When in *any* doubt, though, cite.
    - You'll never get in trouble for over-citing.

# Outside Academia

- Plagiarism is a purely academic crime.
  - It isn't, in fact, a crime – either criminal or civil.
  - But it's a violation of academic ethics and you can be punished for it.
  - By attending a school, you agree to the school policies whether or not you've read them.
- Outside academia, it's still a good idea to give credit where it's due.
  - Copyright infringement, technically different from plagiarism, can be grounds for a lawsuit.

# Proper Citations

- Step one: pick a style guide.
- Any style guide is better than no style guide.
  - Saves time.
  - Prevents stylistic inconsistencies.
  - In class instructor will notice.
  - Want to get published? Check the publisher's required style guide.
- Some instructors may insist on a specific style guide. (Not such a frequent issue at the undergraduate level.)

# Style Guides...

- Dictate whether:
  - Are books and movies underlined? In Italics?
  - Do I center justify text? Left justify only?
  - Dates?
    - July 19, 1969?
    - Jul. 19, 1969
    - 19 Jul 1969?
    - 7/19/69?...
  - Numbers?
    - 5
    - Five?
    - 39
    - Thirty-nine?
  - Most importantly: how do I cite my sources?

# Style Guides

- General interest: **Chicago Manual of Style**
- Arts and Humanities: **MLA (Modern Language Association)**
- Chemistry: **ACS (American Chemical Society)**
- Engineering: **IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)**  
style  

\* Note: IEEE uses Chicago Manual of Style for all matters not explicitly outlined in IEEE style guide.
- Social Sciences: **APA (American Psychological Association)**
  - Note: Sociology, while also a Social Science, has its own style: **ASA (American Sociological Association)**
- Many, many others.

# Simple, One-Author Book Citation

- Chicago : Last name, first name. *Italicized Title*. (Place of publication: publisher, date of publication).
- Kerouac, Jack. *Atop an Underwood*. (New York: Penguin, 2000).
- APA: Last name, author's initial (date of publication). *Italicized Title*. Place of publications, publisher.
- Kerouac, J. (2000). *Atop an Underwood*. New York: Penguin.

# Citing Electronic Sources

- Check your style guide for specifics.
- Typically includes:
  - Name of the author (if given)
  - Site title
  - Names of any editors
  - Date of publication or last update
  - Date of access
  - The URL



- **Examples:**

- Peterson, Susan Lynn. *The Life of Martin Luther*, 1999, Accessed Jan 7, 2003.

<http://pweb.netcom.com/~supeters/luther.htm>

- United States, Environmental Protection Agency. *Values and Functions of Wetlands*., May 25, 1999. Accessed March 24, 2001.

<http://www.epa.gov-owow/wetlands/facts/fact2.html>

# Other forms of citation:

- Citing interviews
  - Citing multiple or unknown authors
  - Citing a musical composition
  - Citing a pamphlet
  - Citing a personal letter
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- If it's a type of information source, you're probably not the first one to discover it.
    - It's faster to look it up than to invent your own mode of citation.

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- **Any questions?**