



# Keep It Honest

## Avoiding Plagiarism

### What is plagiarism?

Simply put, plagiarism is the use of another's original words or ideas as though they were your own.

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

1. to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another person as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to present an idea or product derived from an existing source as new and original.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

### To Avoid Plagiarism, Don't ...

- turn in someone else's work as your own
- copy words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- forget to put a quotation in quotation marks
- copy a few sentence of someone else and change one or two words without giving credit
- copy so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

### To Avoid Plagiarism, Always ...

- cite the source of direct quotations, statistics, and images in your research
- use the library's bibliography handout to properly cite every source you use
- ask the librarian if you're unsure how to cite a source properly.

### For More Information

Plagiarism FAQ ([www.turnitin.com/research\\_site/e\\_faqs.html](http://www.turnitin.com/research_site/e_faqs.html))

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