

# Plagiarism

Retrieved August 23, 2007, from Plagiarism.org: <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism>

## What is plagiarism?

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

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

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

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

## All the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

## For further information:

### **Cheating, Plagiarism, and Unauthorized Collaboration: What Students Need to Know**

[http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/academic/undergraduate/academic\\_integrity.html](http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/academic/undergraduate/academic_integrity.html)

What It is and How to Recognize and Avoid It

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml#plagiarized>

### **Is It Plagiarism Yet?**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>

### **How Not to Plagiarize**

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

### **Safe Practices**

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/03/>