Today we will...

- Learn about what plagiarism is and why it matters.
- Understand what it means to misuse a source.
- Discuss different documentation styles.
- Practice paraphrasing source material.
What is plagiarism?

How do you define plagiarism?
What is plagiarism?

- Plagiarism is the practice of using the work or ideas of another person without giving due credit.
“Plagiarism occurs when a writer...uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts [and images] published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers” (CWPA, 2003, p. 1).
Who plagiarizes?

What kind of people commit plagiarism?
Biden Admits Plagiarism in School But Says It Was Not 'Malevolent'

By E. J. DIONNE Jr., Special to the New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17—Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., fighting to salvage his Presidential campaign, today acknowledged "a mistake" in his youth, when he plagiarized a law review article for a paper he wrote in his first year at law school.

Mr. Biden insisted, however, that he had done nothing "malevolent," that he had simply misunderstood the need to cite sources carefully. And he asserted that another controversy, concerning recent reports of his using material from others' speeches without attribution, was "much ado about nothing."
October 11, 1991

Boston U. Panel Finds Plagiarism by Dr. King

BOSTON, Oct. 10— A committee of scholars appointed by Boston University concluded today that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. plagiarized passages in his dissertation for a doctoral degree at the university 36 years ago.

"There is no question," the committee said in a report to the university's provost, "but that Dr. King plagiarized in the dissertation by appropriating material from sources not explicitly credited in notes, or mistakenly credited, or credited generally and at some distance in the text from a close paraphrase or verbatim quotation."

Despite its finding, the committee said that "no thought should be given to the revocation of Dr. King's doctoral degree," an action that the panel said would serve no purpose.

But the committee did recommend that a letter stating its finding be placed with the official copy of Dr. King's dissertation in the university's library.

The four-member committee was appointed by the university a year ago to determine whether plagiarism charges against Dr. King that had recently surfaced were in fact true. Today the university's provost, Jon Westling, accepted the committee's recommendations and said its members had "conducted the investigation with scholarly thoroughness, scrupulous attention to detail and a determination not to be influenced by non-scholarly consideration."

The dissertation at issue is "A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman." Dr. King wrote it in 1955 as part of his requirements for a doctor of philosophy degree, which he subsequently received from the university's Division of Religious and Theological Studies.

One member of the investigating committee, John Cartwright, the university's Martin Luther King Professor of Social Ethics, said the panel had refrained from speculating about the reasons why Dr. King had not properly attributed material, which came from a variety of other interpreters of the works of Tillich and Wieman.
Vladimir Putin — KGB spy, politician, Russian Federation president, 2006 host of the Group of Eight international summit — can add a new line to his resume: plagiarist.

Large chunks of Mr. Putin’s mid-1990s economics dissertation on planning in the natural resources sector were lifted straight out of a management text published by two University of Pittsburgh academics nearly 20 years earlier, Washington researchers insisted yesterday.

Six diagrams and tables from the 218-page dissertation mimic in form and content similar charts in the Russian translation of the Americans’ work as well, according to Brookings Institution senior fellow Clifford G. Gaddy.

“It all boils down to plagiarism,” he said. “Whether you’re talking about a college-level term paper, not to mention a formal dissertation, there’s no question in my mind that this would be plagiarism.”
New Yorker Writer Jonah Lehrer Plagiarizes Himself Repeatedly [Updated]

By Joe Coscarelli  

June 19, 2012  
12:30 p.m.

Did you ever pull that old college trick where you wrote the same paper for two classes? It's frowned upon, but hard to get caught. Not so on the Internet: New Yorker staffer Jonah Lehrer, who was just hired, has often reused his own exact wording without noting it in his work at NewYorker.com, Wired, the New York Times Magazine, the Wall Street Journal, and in his 2009 book, How We Decide. He was first busted this morning by Jim Romenesko borrowing three introductory paragraphs that he first used last October in the Journal. They appeared again last week in an online article on NewYorker.com titled, "Why Smart People Are Stupid." But a bit of digging by Daily Intel shows that it's not the first time the prolific Lehrer, who's contributed to the Washington Post and "Radiolab," has doubled up.

All five of Lehrer's blog posts so far for NewYorker.com now come with Editor's Notes: "We regret the duplication of material."
Harvard Takes Back Hornstine Admission
Decision follows allegations of plagiarism by controversial admit

By ELIZABETH W. GREEN and J. HALE RUSSELL, CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS  July 11, 2003

Harvard has revoked its admission of Blair Hornstine, the prospective member of the Class of 2007 who made national headlines when she sued her school system to ensure she would be her high school’s sole valedictorian.

Following a widely-publicized report that Hornstine had plagiarized material in articles she wrote for her local paper, the Harvard admissions office has rescinded her offer to attend Harvard in the fall, according to a source involved with the decision.

Since the allegations of plagiarism were first reported, Hornstine has defended her actions by way of press releases and family spokespersons.

In a column by Hornstine in June printed next to the Courier-Post’s note about the “misused sources,” Hornstine said her citation problems stemmed from a lack of training in journalism.

“I kept notes on what I had read,” she wrote. “When finalizing my thoughts, I, like most every teenager who has use of a computer, cut and pasted my ideas together. I erroneously thought the way I had submitted the articles was appropriate.”

Hornstine wrote she now understands that she “was incorrect in...thinking that news articles didn’t require as strict citation scrutiny as most school assignments because there was no place for footnotes or end notes.”
Copyright, Ethics, and Plagiarism

Information that does not have to be cited:
- General information, considered common knowledge
  - Common knowledge is information that your reader(s) could find easily in any number of general sources.

Information that MUST be cited:
- Information not widely known
- Conclusions made by others
- Explanation or summary of a study
- Pictures, illustrations, figures, and/or graphs
- Statistics or formulas used from or based on someone else’s work
- Direct quotations and paraphrased material
Types of Plagiarism

- **Cheating**
  - “Borrowing, purchasing, or otherwise obtaining work composed by someone else and submitted under one’s own name” (Moore-Howard, 1995).

- **Non-attribution**
  - Copying word-for-word without crediting the author or using quotation marks.

- **Patchwriting**
  - Writing that is similar to the original source material with minor changes to wording – word order or synonyms
  - Sentence structure mirrors source material

(Moore-Howard, 1995)
While web sites like MySpace and YouTube are changing the way artists and record labels reach out to fans, the next online revolution in the music industry is already well under way. But Second Life is no mere social-networking or video-sharing site. A fully immersive three-dimensional digital universe that looks like a video game, Second Life is actually a whole new animal” (Anderson, 2006, p. 58).

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“While web sites like MySpace and YouTube are changing the way artists and record labels reach out to fans, the next online revolution in the music industry is already well under way. But Second Life is no mere social-networking or video-sharing site. A fully immersive three-dimensional digital universe that looks like a video game, Second Life is actually a whole new animal” (Anderson, 2006, p. 58).

Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are altering the way the music industry connects with fans. Second Life is another form of social networking revolutionizing the music industry. Second Life is not just a social-networking or video-sharing resource. It is a complete 3D technological world similar to a video game (Anderson, 2006).
Parenthetical / In-text Citations

- The method of documenting or providing credit to the original source of **quoted, paraphrased**, or **summarized** material within the body of your paper
  - Parenthetical = set off within (parentheses)
  - Citations should be thought of as part of your sentence – the period will go on the outside of your (parentheses).

- The format of this citation will depend on the documentation style being used.
  - e. g. APA, MLA, Chicago-Style, JEB, CSE
What is the difference?

- a word-for-word reprinting of another person's words
- A quote is indicated by using quotation marks (" ").
- The source material must be cited correctly according to the citation style being used (e.g. APA, MLA, or other).

- an expression of another person's ideas in your own words without the use of quotation marks.
- The sentence structure and phrasing must not be the same as the original source material.
- A paraphrase includes an in-text citation to indicate the source of the original idea.
Quoting

- When do I use a direct quote in my writing?
  - When language is especially vivid or expressive.
  - When exact wording is needed for accuracy.
  - When it is important to let the debaters of an issue explain their positions in their own words.
  - When the words of an authority lend weight to an argument.
  - When the language of a source is the topic of your discussion (as in an analysis or interpretation).

(Hacker & Sommers, 2012, p. 469)
When do I use a paraphrase in my writing?

- To convey the ideas of a source in your own words.
- To explain or illustrate a point to your audience.
- To include the details of a source without using the exact wording or structure of the source.
- To show your audience that you understand the source.

(Lunsford & Connors, 1999, p. 488)
Citation Style Influences

There are differing opinions on the use of quotations or paraphrasing, depending on the citation style being used and the discipline in which you are writing.

- MLA prefers direct quotations, to emphasize the exact wording of a document.

- APA prefers paraphrased material that emphasizes the main concepts or ideas being discussed by an author.
Paraphrasing and Summarizing

To avoid plagiarizing when summarizing or paraphrasing, resist looking at the source while writing.

- Read the passage. Re-read as needed to ensure you have a clear understanding of the source material.
- Set it aside.
- Ask yourself, “What is the author’s meaning?”
- In your own words, write down the author’s main point. Keep it simple.

(Hacker & Sommers, 2012, p. 467)
How do you misuse a source?

- Misuse of a source is the *incorrect* documentation or quotation of source material (CWPA, 2003).
  - An attempt at documentation is noted, but the writer has failed to correctly cite according to the required documentation style.
  - The writer has incorrectly quoted a source.

- To avoid the misuse of sources and improper citation, follow the documentation style specified by your instructor.
How do you use a source correctly?

- To avoid the misuse of sources and improper citation, follow the documentation style specified by your instructor.
  - e.g. APA, MLA, Chicago-Style, JEB, CSE, and many more
When using a direct quotation in text, APA style requires that page numbers be placed within the in-text citation.

If the source does not have page numbers, include only author and year. If paragraph numbers are provided, they can be included.

(Author, year, p. #).

(Author, year, para. #).
Direct quote:
- Parenthetical citation:
  - One aspect that researchers have studied is “the possibility that volunteer support can influence how long terminally ill patients survive” (Herbst-Damm & Kulik, 2005, p. 225).
- Signal Phrase:
  - Research by Herbst-Damm and Kulik (2005) supports the claim that “volunteer support can influence how long terminally ill patients survive” (p. 225).

Paraphrase:
- Parenthetical citation:
  - Sickle-cell anemia is often fatal, and its health effects vary (Herbst-Damm & Kulik, 2005).
- Signal Phrase:
  - Herbst-Damm and Kulik (2005) argue that Sickle-cell anemia is often fatal, and its health effects vary.
Why does this matter?

- Article III. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct include, but are not limited to:
  - Cheating
  - Plagiarism
  - Multiple Submissions
  - Complicity
    - the association or participation in a wrongful act
    - For example, allowing a friend to copy your paper.
  - Fabrication, Falsification, or Misrepresentation
    - See Student Code of Conduct as these can be complicated
  - Any student found to have committed or attempted to commit a violation to the Student Code of Conduct is subject to the disciplinary sanction outlined in Article VII.
Ways to Avoid Plagiarism

- If you are unsure if something needs to be cited, always cite.
- Keep a working bibliography of sources you gather during your research.
- When conducting research, take notes that include the bibliographic information with full citations.
  - This may seem time consuming, but it is better than having to retrace your research steps!
- Cite as you write!
- Ask questions: your instructor, your peers, the Writing Center, and the librarians could help.
Plagiarism Resources

- TAMUCC Code of Conduct:
  http://judicialaffairs.tamu.edu/StudentCofC.html

- Purdue OWL:
  http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01

- American Psychological Association (APA):
  http://www.apa.org

- Modern Language Association (MLA):
  http://www.mla.org
References


