

# PLAGIARISM

**What you need to know about plagiarism and how to avoid it!!!**

**According to the “Oxford English Dictionary,” plagiarism means the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft.**

**Plagiarism can take a broad range of forms. At its simplest, plagiarism involves putting one's own name on someone else's work; this is seen in schools when a student submits a paper that someone else has written.**

**LSCPA has explicit guidelines for reviewing and punishing plagiarism by students and faculty members.**

**Literary theft is when a writer duplicates another writer's language or ideas and then represents the work as his or her own.**

**Copyright laws protect a writer's words as their legal property.**

**Plagiarism is not the same as copyright infringement, which is a violation of the rights of a copyright holder when material protected by copyright is used without consent.**

**There can be similar theft in music or other arts. Some musicians have been sued by other musicians on alleged theft of lyrics or music.**

**In the academic world, plagiarism by students is a very serious offense that can result in punishments such as a failing grade on that particular assignment or the course. In some cases in which a student commits severe plagiarism, a student may be suspended or expelled.**

**Students with the accessibility of new technology, (the Internet and databases) can plagiarize by copying and pasting information from other sources. Teachers can easily detect plagiarism because they can tell whether a student used his or her own words or “voice”. Some instructors use an online plagiarism detector.**

**As a student is researching, he or she is gathering knowledge which is built from previous knowledge. Your instructors are asking you to do three things:**

- **Show that you have a clear understanding of the material you've read**
- **Cite your sources to support the ideas you have developed**
- **Distinguish your analysis of what you've read from the writers' analyses.**

**When you cite a source, you are using an expert's ideas as proof or evidence.**

**What about paraphrasing?**

**Paraphrasing means to adapt, appropriate, or alter the wording of (a saying or quotation) or the words of (an author or speaker) to suit one's own purpose (Oxford English Dictionary)**

**Other Web sites :**

[Plagiarism.org](#)

[Plagiarism Resources \(Legal Writing Institute\)](#)

[Plagiarism Resources.SFSU](#)

[Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

[UNC - Plagiarism](#)

If you need further assistance, please ask a librarian, in person or online [Ask a Librarian](#)

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