

**On Plagiarism**

*Plagiarize* and *plagiarism* come from the Latin *plagiarius,* which means “kidnapper.” For those of you who want to avoid kidnapping sources that are not your own (as well as avoiding being hauled before the academic court of serious consequences), there is a good question to ask yourselves right from the start: where are *my ideas* and *my voice* within this essay or assignment? Once you ask yourselves this, you will understand just how important citing sources is, as well as how your own voice and ideas fit into those outside sources.

**ECC’s Academic Honor Code** lays out plagiarism in the following way:

Careless or deliberate use of the work or the ideas of another; representation of another’s work, words, ideas, or data as your own without permission or appropriate acknowledgement.

**Examples:** copying another’s paper, work, computer disk, or answers and submitting or representing it as your own; submitting an assignment which has been partially or wholly done by another and claiming it as yours; not properly acknowledging a source which has been summarized or paraphrased in your work; failure to acknowledge the use of another’s words with quotation marks.

But punishments by ECC aside, the moral and intellectual consequences are important as well. You are, as students, our co-collaborators here at school, and we (teachers, tutors, etc.) want to hear what you have to say in your own voices. We also want to see that you know *where your voices fit in with the intellectual and academic community at large*.

Plagiarism is taking someone else’s work and voluntarily or involuntarily claiming it as your own. It is, in short, theft. Here are some ways to avoid ever stealing from someone else:

1. As you research, you should take notes, writing down the sources (authors and page numbers) for ideas you’re using in your work.
2. Include citations for your sources if you paraphrase or quote other authors. Add your citations as soon as possible.
3. Paraphrase by using your own words and sentences. Don’t let the source “speak for you.” Don’t let an author take over your voice.
4. For direct quotes, include the page numbers / quotation marks that show your audience that you’re attributing credit to the author.
5. Don’t plagiarize yourself if using a previous work of your own. Cite yourself if need be.
6. Read your draft and make sure that all of the material from outside sources is clearly and accurately cited.
7. Use a site such as Turnitin in order to check for plagiarism.
8. Always consult with your instructors or a tutor on proper citation before turning in your assignments.



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