

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious form of cheating. To plagiarize is to claim another's ideas or writing as one's own. It is a form of stealing.

Plagiarism can take several forms. Students often associate the term with writers who copy entire passages from a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or other printed source and turn them in to an instructor as their work. This is, perhaps, the most blatant form of plagiarism as well as the easiest for instructors to detect. After all, instructors can usually recognize a passage lifted from Time magazine or other sources with distinctive styles. In fact, instructors can almost always recognize professional writing, even if they cannot immediately identify its source.

But plagiarism takes several other forms. For instance, students plagiarize when they borrow ideas from other writers without giving them credit. In this case, students might not even use the other writer's language; nevertheless, they are stealing the writer's content. Students also plagiarize when they present another student's work *{or the work of a professional paper writing service, or work copied from a Web Site}* as their own. Thus, documentation involves more than just citing the source of direct quotations.

Because plagiarism is such a complex concept to come to grips with in its entirety, take note of the following summary definition:

1. Plagiarism includes the **literal repetition without acknowledgement of the writings of another author**. All significant *words, phrases, clauses or passages* in a student's paper which have been taken directly from the source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself or in foot or endnotes.
2. Plagiarism includes borrowing without acknowledgement another writer's **general plan, outline, or structure of argument** in the creation of one's own organization.
3. Plagiarism includes borrowing another's **ideas** and representing them as one's own. To **paraphrase** the thoughts of another writer without acknowledging them is to plagiarize.
4. Plagiarism includes allowing **any other person or organization (including those found on the internet)** to prepare the paper and submitting it as one's own work.

Plagiarism in the course will not be tolerated. Penalties for plagiarism include, but are not limited to, failure in the course, suspension, and permanent expulsion from the university. For more information, consult the University of Houston Undergraduate Studies handbook, section on "Academic Honesty."

GRADUATE PAPERS

Papers written for a graduate class cannot be used –entirely or partially- to fulfill the requirements of a different graduate course. This will be considered an act of **academic dishonesty**. If you want to incorporate some materials from a previous research paper, you need to get a written authorization from both professors, the one for whom the paper was written originally, and the professor of the current class. If you don't comply with this regulation, you will be facing sanctions ranging from failure in the course (F) to suspension from the Graduate program at the Department of Hispanic Studies.