

What can you do to avoid plagiarizing?

- Give yourself plenty of time to research your topic and write the assignment in your own words and voice.
- Be sure to write who wrote any ideas/words you do use in your paper and where you got any information that was not your own. (See the next column for how to do this properly.)
- Proofread your work for "voice." Is it yours?
- Show your rough draft to your teacher or parent to check that you haven't accidentally plagiarized before you complete your final copy.
- Be prepared to explain what you have learned about your assigned topic verbally, without reading it word for word, or in writing.
- Trust your own writing skills! You can do it!

How do you give credit to the original source?

- When using quotes, be sure to put the person's name near the quote.

Mrs. Ferrara said, "THES is a great place to work!"

- If not using a quote, but describing what someone thought, put the person's name near your sentence.

THES has a positive working environment. Mrs. Ferrara confirmed this opinion during our interview. *or* According to Mrs. Ferrara, THES has a positive working environment.

- When you reprint exact information or graphics or when you tell ideas you got in an interview, name the source.
- To learn how to correctly write your sources, go to: <http://www.hobbyhorsebooks.com/bibliography5.html>

Bibliography:

- Harris, Robert. "Anti-Plagiarism Strategies for Research Papers." *Virtual Salt*. Nov. 17, 2004.
<http://www.virtualsalt.com/antiplag.htm>
- Lincoln, Margaret. Internet Plagiarism. *Information Today, Inc.* Jan/Feb.2002.
<http://www.infotoday.com/MMSchools/jan02/lincoln.htm>

Plagiarism: a fancy word for cheating



Make your work your own.

Give credit where credit is due.

What is plagiarism?

When you write or share someone else's words and/or ideas as if you created those words and ideas...that is plagiarism.

When you write or share someone else's words and/or ideas and don't write who really created them...that is plagiarism.

Other familiar words about plagiarism:

- copying
- text lifting
- not using quotation marks around someone else's words
- using quotation marks when giving text examples, but not telling who said the words
- cheating

What does it look like?

- Copying someone else's work or words
- Copying words, pictures, tables, graphs, etc. from books, magazines, interviews, music, computers, etc. without saying so
- Changing just a few words or the order of sentences when using research information
- Being part of a group project, but letting your partners do the work
- Letting your parent or siblings do your projects for you

How will anyone know?

Your teacher may think twice if:

- it sounds like an encyclopedia
 - it sounds too old
 - it sounds oddly familiar
 - it doesn't have your "voice"
 - you paraphrased well, but you didn't tell where you got the information
- or
- your teacher checked it out on a computer search engine that finds exactly where you got it

What's the problem with plagiarism?

Take a minute to think to yourself: what *is* the problem with plagiarism?

Jot down a few reasons why it is wrong to plagiarize.

Consider this:

- Intellectual property: this means that the person who makes up the words or ideas is the person who owns them. YOU don't! So, if you pretend that you do, you are stealing their words/ideas and lying when you pass them off as your own.
- There are consequences for your actions. Teachers and administrators have strict guidelines to follow when students are caught cheating.
- Who is really being cheated when you cheat? YOU!