

Plagiarism: A Reference Booklet

English Department

II. Why is plagiarism such a serious matter?

- * Plagiarism is an immoral act: it is an academic crime, the intellectual equivalent of theft.
- * Plagiarism cheats others out of the hard-earned fruit of their own academic labors. Just consider: how would you feel if someone else took your work and passed it off as his or her own?
- * If you plagiarize, you are depriving yourself of the benefits of education. In order to learn, y

IV. What are the causes of plagiarism, and how can you avoid

*** Students often plagiarize because they lack confidence in their own ideas and abilities**, and feel that they cannot rely on these alone in order to fulfill the requirements of the class. As a result, they choose to take the words and ideas of other

***Plagiarism may consist of the insertion of an idea, phrase, or sentence from an outside source alongside the student's own original points. For example:**

Before Satan visits Adam and Eve in order to tempt them into disobeying God, Milton has a

***By citing the source properly both when you quote its exact words and when you paraphrase any of its ideas, you avoid all these forms of plagiarism.** In the process, you allow yourself to enter into a scholarly conversation, properly crediting the words and ideas of others so that you can then respond to them and develop your own argument. For example:

As Anne Ferry argues, the complexity of Milton's tone "depends upon the fact that both narrator and reader ar

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“The university is a community dedicated to learning and research, both of which include the transmission of knowledge. In striving to learn, we are often dependent on what others have achieved and thus become indebted to them. Courtesy, gratitude and justice require that we make public our reliance on and use of the ideas and writings of others. At the time of matriculation, all students are informed of the academic honesty policy as described below and asked to sign a paper or electronic form indicating their understanding of same.

An attempt to claim ideas or writings that originate with others as one’s own is a serious offense against the academic community. Plagiarism is not mitigated by a paraphrase or even by an extensive rewriting of another’s work. Whenever ideas or words are borrowed, the student must give credit by citing the source. The same principle of honesty applies to the use of modern technologies like the computer— sources of information must be accurately credited.

A student who submits plagiarized work is subject to disciplinary action. An instructor who discovers that plagiarized work has been submitted in fulfillment of course requirements shall immediately inform the student, allowing him or her the chance to explain the circumstances. If, after conferring with the student, the instructor still considers the student’s work to be plagiarized, then the instructor will compile the materials of the case, including the piece of work that may have been plagiarized, any sources from which the student plagiarized and a report of the instructor’s conversation with the student. The instructor will submit these materials to the appropriate Academic Dean.”

From the 202 -2 UD Bulletin, available online on the Registrar’s Home Page at <http://udallas.smartcatalogiq.com/>. Please consult the Plagiarism page in that Bulletin to learn about the procedures to be followed when a student is accused of plagiarism.