

9.1. DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined as “The practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own” (Oxford dictionary). Plagiarism involves the use of someone else work without quoting, attribution, or citation. It extends to the use of someone else words without paraphrasing.

Plagiarism then occurs when students fail to use quotations when copying word by word someoneelse ideas, not making reference to the source (citation) or paraphrasing too closely.

9.2. TYPES OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism may take several forms: The followings are the common forms of plagiarism

1. Reproducing (cloning): Generating a copy of someone else work from A to Z
2. Ctrl-C followed by Ctrl-V: Copy and paste a significant part (4 to 6 successive words in text) of someone else work without change
3. Find then Replace: Replacing certain words with synonyms while maintaining the original Content
4. Mixing and combining: Paraphrasing and integration in own work
5. Recycling: Plagiarism of own previous work
6. Hybrid: Combine with perfection cited sources with copied work
7. Mash up: mixing copied materials from different sources
8. 404-Error: Use citation of non-existing work
9. Aggregator: Proper citation but paper doesn’t contain original work
10. Re-tweet: Proper citation but relies too closely on the original paper

9.3. IDENTIFICATION OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism will not go unrecognized. Supervisors of students’ work will recognized plagiarism based on one or more of the followings

1. Knowledge of previous writing
2. Higher level of writing
3. Use of uncommon or unfamiliar terms or words
4. Obvious difference in style or terminology between paragraphs and sections(inconsistencies)
5. Use of specific software to detect plagiarism

Specific measures to avoid plagiarism

1. Use proper citation

The use of citation entails making reference to the source from which the information have been obtained. No citation is required for “common knowledge” as: Sanitation of the environment will prevent a wide range of diseases.

2. Use quotation

The use of quotation means putting the sentence extracted from others between quotation marks and attribute it to the original author in addition to proper citation of the source as shown in this example

Original text reads

Fifty years ago today was a tipping point in recognizing and reversing the deadly epidemic caused by smoking.

It can be included in your text as follow

In his speech, Dr. Frieden said “Fifty years ago today was a tipping point in recognizing and reversing the deadly epidemic caused by smoking” [citation]

3. Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing means writing the sentence in your own words and in your own style NOT ONLY changing key words with synonyms in addition to proper citation as shown in this example

Original text reads

Fifty years ago today was a tipping point in recognizing and reversing the deadly epidemic caused by smoking

It can be included in your text as follow

The consequences of tobacco use and interventions to reverse the trend of the epidemic have been recognized 50 years ago [citation]

For effective paraphrasing

- ❑ Read the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
- ❑ Set the original aside, and use your own words to reflect what you have understood
- ❑ Check your interpretation with the original to make sure that your version conveyed the original information.
- ❑ Use quotation marks to a unique word or series used as they are Provide a citation for the source of the original passage

4. Summarization

Summarization refers to extracting the main idea and conveying it in few words using your own words in addition to the use of citation as shown in the example below Original text of Bulman et al (2013)

9.5. CONCLUSION

1. Plagiarism violated academic honesty and integrity
2. It entails the use of others' words or ideas without appropriate citation, use of quotations and paraphrasing
3. Plagiarism may be unintentional as a result of limited knowledge and skills
4. Plagiarism is a morale issue but copyright infringement is a legal issue
5. Plagiarism takes different forms; the simplest is copy and paste
6. There are different methods of recognizing plagiarism. The common is the use of specific software
7. Plagiarism can be avoided by the use citation, quotations, proper paraphrasing and summarization