Avoiding Plagiarism

• Plagiarism is taking another person’s work, ideas, thoughts, expressions, etc., and passing them off as one’s own

• Plagiarism is cheating and theft

• Plagiarism violates academic integrity

• Plagiarism tarnishes a person’s character

• Plagiarism can get you an F and even get you expelled
What’s the big deal?

• What if your lawyer cheated his way through law school? Would you trust him to represent you?
• What if your surgeon had cheated in medical school? Would you trust her to operate on you?
• What if the architect who designed your child’s school had cheated in school? Would you trust his knowledge of safety codes?

Cheating is not just wrong; it can have unforeseen and dangerous consequences
You are plagiarizing when you...

• ...copy and paste text without citing
• ...change a few words using synonyms
• ...get someone else to write the essay
• ...buy an essay
• ...string quotes together without incorporating your own ideas and analysis
• ...reuse your work from other courses or schools

All of the above are considered cheating, and can get you an F for the assignment, an F for the course, and can even get you expelled from school.
Avoid plagiarism: Cite, cite, cite

• Cite your sources both in the body of your essay and at the end (Works Cited or References list)
• Use quotation marks if copying word for word
• Common knowledge and easily verifiable knowledge do not need to be cited but
• When in doubt, CITE
Avoid plagiarism: Summarize & paraphrase

- Summarizing means providing a **brief statement**, in your own words, of the main **ideas/points** of something
- Paraphrasing means **restating** something using your own words

Summarizing and paraphrasing, especially when coupled with analysis of the material, demonstrate your understanding.
At a loss? Ask for help

• Talk to your instructor
• Visit the Writing Center
• Talk to a librarian

Learn More

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty
Principles of Good Writing: Avoiding Plagiarism