

Plagiarism and Ethical Citation

Plagiarism is simply using someone else's work, but claiming it as your own. This can occur in a variety of ways, from copying someone's homework or cheating on a test, to paying someone to write a paper for you or copying and pasting something you find on the internet into your paper without giving credit. Any type of plagiarism, or cheating, is unethical and treated very seriously at any college or university, with punishments ranging from failure to expulsion. Be sure to review the current plagiarism policies for both the university and your individual classes.

Intentional plagiarism or cheating is a choice that a student makes. It is an unwise decision, but does not require explanation because it is done intentionally. On the other hand, many students *accidentally* plagiarize (or worry that they will) simply because they do not understand (or do not take the time to understand) how to properly credit the work of others within their own work. This is the kind of plagiarism that can be prevented by learning how to ethically cite sources.

Ethical citation is the practice of making sure that when you use other people's work within your own work, you properly attribute credit. In college, it is expected that you will use the ideas of others to help you learn and grow as a writer and researcher. Practicing ethical citation allows you to use these ideas in a responsible manner.

There are several different ways to ethically cite, called styles, such as MLA, APA, Chicago, etc. Most English and other Humanities will employ the MLA format. Most citation formats, including MLA, are two-part systems. The first part is in-text citations, where you mark within the body of your work what ideas do not belong to you, through a system of abbreviations. The second part is a type of bibliography that appears at the end of your work, which gives the full information for each outside source you have used. You **MUST** do both parts in order to avoid plagiarizing.

***Additional resources in online text*

