

Plagiarism/Academic Misconduct Quiz

Could I be in trouble for academic misconduct/plagiarism?

Write “yes” or “no” on each line.

1. _____ I got my friend to read my paper and circle all the typos.
2. _____ I got my friend to read my paper and put question marks next to parts s/he didn't understand.
3. _____ I got my friend to read my paper and write down other quotes that would help support my argument.
4. _____ After my friends and I had a big discussion and disagreement about the reading, I used some of our points in my paper.
5. _____ I read an article on the internet and used its main point as my thesis.
6. _____ I read an article on the internet, used some parts of it word-for-word in my paper, and listed the article on my works cited page.
7. _____ I read some information in a reference book, changed all the words and then put them into my own paper.
8. _____ I rewrote some sentences in my friend's paper so that it would sound better.
9. _____ My tutor showed me some different ways to rewrite sentences so that they sounded better.
10. _____ My tutor asked me lots of questions about the reading, and I used my answers in my essay.
11. _____ My tutor rewrote my thesis statement to change it from a summary to something that opens up an argument.
12. _____ My tutor said that my third paragraph would make more sense if it came before my second paragraph, so I moved it.
13. _____ I sold my paper to an internet student-essay bank.
14. _____ My teacher asked groups of students to read over each other's papers and write suggestions for changes and additions on them.

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15. _____ My class discussed the reading and I used some of the points my teacher wrote on the board in my essay.

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Answers to the Plagiarism/Academic Misconduct Quiz

No=Not plagiarism

Yes=Is Plagiarism

1. No. Proofreading of this type is acceptable. The reader is merely drawing attention to problem areas, rather than changing them him/herself.
2. No. Proofreading of this type is acceptable. The reader is merely drawing attention to problem areas, rather than changing them him/herself.
3. Yes. Because the reader is doing the work for the writer, this qualifies as academic misconduct on the part of both reader and writer. HOWEVER, instructors may assign students such tasks as part of Peer Response work, in which case students would not be guilty of academic misconduct.
4. No. The university strives to foster academic conversation both inside and outside of the classroom; because these ideas were generated by the group discussion, they belong to everyone in the group.
5. Yes. Using another writer's ideas (without giving credit to that writer), even if the student recasts them in his or her own language, is unacceptable.
6. Yes. Merely citing a work in the bibliography is insufficient; writers must signify direct quotes with quotation marks (or indentation for long passages) and a page reference within the text. In this case, the writer is generally not willfully plagiarizing, but instead needs to be reminded about proper in-text citation.
7. Yes. Using another writer's ideas (without giving credit to that writer), even if the student recasts them in his or her own language, is unacceptable.
8. Yes. Work submitted for a grade must have been written entirely by the student being graded. If the writer uses the suggestions word-for-word in his or her paper, then both students are guilty of academic misconduct.
9. No. The purpose of University-sanctioned tutoring is to help students develop their writing skills. Tutors assist writers by modeling many different sentence techniques which students emulate and then practice on their own.
10. No. All of the ideas generated are the student's own; the tutor is assisting the writer by engaging in academic conversation.

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11. Yes. Tutors, like anyone else, may not do the actual writing for the student. Usually, Writing Center tutors are trained not to lead students into this kind of academic misconduct; private tutors, however, may or may not hold to the same standards.

12. No. Tutors often give advice on organization; the student chooses whether or not to accept the tutor's suggestion.

13. Yes. A student who knowingly provides material for others to use is as culpable as the student who turns it in for a grade.

14. No. Tasks that are assigned by a students' instructor as a required part of the writing process are always acceptable.

15. No. The university strives to foster academic conversation both inside and outside of the classroom. In general, ideas generated by group discussion belong to everyone in the group. HOWEVER, instructors are free to set the boundaries of writing assignments in any way they deem appropriate, and may define the ways in which class discussions intersect with written work.

This quiz was originally generated by the Freshman English Office at the University of Connecticut; small adaptations were made by Rebecca Devers.

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