AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

What is plagiarism?
At UWA, plagiarism is defined as
• the unattributed (not referenced) use of someone else’s words, creations, ideas, arguments, etc. as one’s own.
Plagiarism also includes
• the use of ‘too close’ or extensive paraphrase http://www.teachingandlearning.uwa.edu.au/staff/policies/conduct/plagiarism
• deliberate cheating such as buying or selling assignments
• presenting someone else’s work as your own
• inadequate or incorrect referencing
• referencing in the wrong place
• excessive editing by a paid or unpaid editor
• submitting the same work for more than one assignment
• submitting as your work, an assignment written by someone else even though they have given you permission to use their work.

What needs to be referenced?
All creations, ideas, diagrams, texts, films, music, etc whatever their source, must be attributed to their creator/author.

How do you reference?
You use either footnotes¹ or in-text citations (e.g. Jones 2011) to link the ideas, diagrams, etc. of others to your ideas.
The library has a range of referencing guides available on its website. http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/information-resources/guides
Find out which referencing style is used in each of your disciplines and follow the appropriate guide(s).

How do you attribute use?
You attribute use by referencing the words, creations, ideas, diagrams, etc. of authors/others that you have used in your assignments and/or theses.

Why is it necessary to reference?
In an academic setting there are a number of reasons for referencing.
• It shows your reader what you have read on the topic.
• It lends credibility to your position.
• It enables the reader to locate the sources mentioned in your paper. The reader may want to follow up those sources.
• It is the accepted way to acknowledge sources in an academic context.
• It means you are complying with the university’s policies on ethical scholarship.

Did you know?

EndNote is bibliographic software available free to all UWA students. http://libguides.library.uwa.edu.au/endnote

Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that is taken very seriously at UWA. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is.

Ignorance is no excuse.
Referencing quiz—Answer true or false and test your knowledge

1. An in-text citation is the same as a footnote.
2. You must reference both quotes and paraphrases.
3. Books and journal articles are referenced the same way.
4. Materials found on the web are referenced the same way as printed material.
5. You don't need to reference graphics & diagrams.
6. Referencing in the wrong place is not plagiarism.
7. It is plagiarism if you don't put quotation marks around a quote but include the author in the reference list.
8. If you copy a friend’s work with their permission and submit it, it is not plagiarism.

Answers below

Plagiarising is stealing someone else’s ideas

Have you ever had your ideas “stolen” or attributed to someone else?
You probably felt cheated when this happened.
Plagiarism is stealing and using the ideas of another and not acknowledging where you got the ideas from in the first place.

Avoiding plagiarism—it's easy

Consider the ideas in your assignments as part of a conversation with other authors and thinkers. Then it will seem natural to show (by referencing correctly) how your ideas build on, compare with, differ from and/or are influenced by theirs.

What information do you have to cite?

Bibliographic information includes, at least, surname, first name or initial of author or authors, date of publication, title of journal article, book chapter, journal, book, film, etc. volume and page numbers of articles and, if web based material, the date the text was downloaded from the web.

Other information may be needed depending on what is being referenced.

Refer to specific referencing guides for more detailed information.


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Survival Guides: Avoiding plagiarism, Avoiding academic misconduct, Quoting, Paraphrasing

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Any suggestions?
We’d love to hear from you. Email us at study.smarter@uwa.edu.au

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