AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the unattributed (not referenced) use of someone else’s words, creations, ideas, arguments, etc. as one’s own.

Examples of plagiarism include:

- Inappropriate paraphrasing—the use of ‘too close’ or extensive paraphrase [link to website]
- Collusion—presenting someone else’s work as your own. This includes buying or selling assignments, excessive editing by an editor (paid or unpaid) and submitting an assignment written by someone else (even if they have given you permission to use their work).
- Inadequate or incorrect referencing—this might be referencing in the wrong place or citing sources you haven’t read.
- Self-plagiarism—submitting the same work for more than one assignment.

How do you reference?

You can use either footnotes (e.g. ¹) or in-text citations (e.g. Jones 2011) to link the ideas, diagrams, etc. of others to your ideas throughout your assignment.

Find out which referencing style is used in your discipline and follow the appropriate guide.

TIP

The library has a range of referencing guides available on its website. [Link to website]

What needs to be referenced?

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

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.

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 assignment or thesis.
TIP
Consider the ideas in your assignment 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 should you cite?
Bibliographic information includes: 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 on the library website for more detailed information.

Did you know?
Endnote is bibliographic software available free to all UWA students. http://libguides.library.uwa.edu.au/endnote

Quiz — answer true or false and test your knowledge:
1. If you copy a friend’s work with their permission and submit it, it is not plagiarism.
2. Plagiarism is the unattributed (not referenced) use of someone else’s words or ideas as your own.
3. You don’t need to reference graphics & diagrams.
4. Referencing in the wrong place is not plagiarism.
5. Books and journal articles are referenced the same way.
6. You don’t need to reference material found on the web.
7. Direct quotes and paraphrases need to be referenced.
8. Accurate and consistent referencing means you are complying with the University’s policies on ethical scholarship.

Answers below:
1. F
2. T
3. F
4. F
5. F
6. F
7. T
8. T

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