

Preventing Plagiarism: A Student Guide

"It is the little writer rather than the great writer who seems never to quote, and the reason is that he is never actually doing anything else."

Havelock Ellis

What is plagiarism?

According to the Salisbury University **Academic Integrity Policy** *...

"Plagiarism occurs when a student intentionally or unintentionally deceives or disregards proper scholarly procedures; presents information, ideas or phrasing of another as if they were his/her own; and/or does not give appropriate attribution to the original source."

In other words...

Plagiarism is using others' ideas or words without documenting the source of that information.

"Proper scholarly procedures require that all quoted material be identified by quotation marks or indentation on the page, and the source of information and ideas, if from another, must be identified and be attributed to that source."

Why do students plagiarize?

- Ease and convenience of obtaining material from the Internet
- View of the Internet as a one-stop source of free material to be used as needed
- Belief that electronic plagiarism is hard to detect
- Student-generated values: "Everybody does it," "It's cool" and "It's no big deal"
- Time-management problems; procrastination
- Poor academic preparation: deficits in composition and research skills; lack of knowledge about proper attribution
- Attitudinal problems (e.g., "I'm not interested in this course; I just need to make a passing grade")
- Societal acceptance of taking whatever measures are necessary to succeed
- Cultural differences in the perception of, and attitudes toward, plagiarism

How do SU faculty fight plagiarism?

- **SafeAssign** - An increasing number of SU faculty are using this campus-wide plagiarism detection service to review student research papers - www.salisbury.edu/instructionaldesign/instructional_software/SafeAssign.html.

How can SU students take responsibility?

- **Understand the Issue** - A simple web search using the phrase, "what is plagiarism?" will provide plenty of instructive mechanisms for understanding the concept.
 - **Citation Style Web Guide** - Blackwell Library has a web guide to assist students in correctly citing sources obtained during the research process - www.salisbury.edu/library/citation/.
 - **Citation Style Guides** - Blackwell Library also has print copies of all major style guides at the Research Help Desk.
-

Cases and examples of plagiarized text:

- Examples of purported or actual plagiarism (Wikipedia) - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism#Examples_of_purported_or_actual_plagiarism
- Cases against plagiarists in colleges (Ronald B. Standler) - <http://www.rbs2.com/plag.htm#anchor444444>
- How to recognize plagiarism: examples (Indiana University, School of Education) - <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html>
- Plagiarism resources for students (Webster University) - <http://www.webster.edu/students/plagiarism/index.shtml>

Learn and Practice with these exercises:

- You Quote It, You Note It - an animated tutorial (Acadia University) - <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>
 - What is Plagiarism: The Movie! - three part flash movie (Rutgers University) - <http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModule/Plagiarism/whatisplagiarism.html>
 - The Plagiarism Court: You Be the Judge (Fairfield University) - http://data.fairfield.edu/library/lib_plagiarismcourt.html
 - Citing and Documenting Sources (UCLA Library) - <http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/col/bruinsuccess/03/01.cfm>
 - Plagiarism Quiz - practice deciphering between plagiarism and original work (Indiana University) - <http://www.indiana.edu/~tedfrick/plagiarism/>
-

For further reading:

- * SU Academic Integrity Policy - www.salisbury.edu/Students/handbook/07-08/Student_Code_2007-08_22-25.pdf
-

This document is also on the web at <http://www.salisbury.edu/library/plagiarism/student.html>