PLAGIARISM

plagiarism
/prəˌdʒērəsəm/

noun

the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own.

synonyms: copying, infringement of copyright, piracy, theft, stealing;
informal cribbing
"accusations of plagiarism"

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Why do people plagiarize?
Do any of these reasons sound like YOU?

...because—having never been taught that plagiarism is wrong and illegal—people just don’t know or consider that what they are doing is something unethical.

...because, despite knowing that plagiarism is illegal, people are unethical and lazy enough that they will do it anyway—and not really care about the consequences to themselves, or others.

...because, despite knowing that plagiarism is illegal and unethical, people excuse committing plagiarism by saying/thinking: “But--I’ve only borrowed just a tiny bit of that article... only a couple of photos ...just one song.... . No one will notice or care!”
Can words and ideas really be stolen?
According to U.S. law, the answer is yes.

The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions.

Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).
All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.
What about images, videos, and music?
Using an image, video or piece of music in a work you have produced without receiving proper permission or providing appropriate citation is plagiarism.

The following activities are very common in today’s society. Despite their popularity, they still count as plagiarism.

- Copying media *(especially images)* from other websites to paste them into your own papers or websites.

- Making a video using footage from others’ videos or using copyrighted music as part of the soundtrack.

- Performing another person’s copyrighted music (i.e., playing a cover).

- Composing a piece of music that borrows heavily from another composition
So….how do we keep from plagiarizing, when creating our own work?
Cite sources!


There are many excellent sources to help you cite materials correctly—and almost effortlessly! Among them:

http://www.easybib.com
Make it clear in your writing who said what—and the source the statement was taken from.

Doing so will avoid any confusion over what may be your own thoughts, as opposed to the actual statements or ideas presented in a source you used.

“Canada had record exports for the year 2011.”

In an address to the Canadian Farmer’s Association in July, 2012, the Minister of Agriculture for Canada, Mr. Gerry Ritz, stated, “Canada had record agricultural exports for the year 2011.”
Learn how to paraphrase

To paraphrase correctly, the main idea of the original content needs to come through—but the wording and structure needs to be your own.

Young children and kittens are an excellent match! They can explore and learn about the world together—and kittens that grow up around children, tend to become patient and content cats that can tolerate noisy households!

Remember: you still need to cite the original works that you take ideas from—even if you use paraphrasing!
Analyze and Evaluate your sources

**Authors**
- Are author names included?
- Are the author’s credentials provided?
- Are the credentials relevant to the information provided?

**Publishers**
- Who is the publisher of the information?
- Is the publisher an academic institution, scholarly, or professional organization?
- Is their purpose for publishing this source evident?

**Currency/Timeliness**
- Is the date of publication evident?
- Is current information crucial to your research?

**Content**
- Why is the information being provided or the article written?
- Are sources cited?
- Are there references to other writings on this topic?
- Are there charts, graphs, tables, and bibliographies included?
- Are research claims documented?
- Are conclusions based on evidence provided?
- How long is the source?

**Audience**
- Who is the intended audience of this source?
- Is the language geared toward those with knowledge of a specific discipline or the general public?

http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/howdoi/scholarly.html