

# Avoiding Plagiarism

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# Plagiarism and CSUDH

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- According to both the Faculty Handbook and the Student Handbook, "... all academic work submitted by a student as her or his own should be in her or his own unique style, words, and form. When work is submitted that purports to be original, but actually is not, the student has committed plagiarism."
- Warning: US Courts have decided that taking another's ideas or words as your own does NOT have to be deliberate in order to be considered plagiarism.

# Plagiarism and CSUDH

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- “Plagiarism is considered a gross violation of the University's academic and disciplinary standards. Plagiarism includes the following: copying of one person's work by another and claiming it as her or his own, false presentation of one's self as the author or creator of a work, falsely taking credit for another person's unique method of treatment or expression, falsely representing one's self as the source of ideas or expression, or the presentation of someone else's language, ideas, or works without giving that person due credit. It is not limited to written works. For example, one can plagiarize music compositions, photographs, works of art, choreography, computer programs, or any other creative effort.”

# Consequences of Plagiarism

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- Plagiarism can result in
  - a lower grade
  - a failing grade in the course in which the plagiarism is committed
  - academic sanctions, including expulsion

# Consequences of Plagiarism

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- Plagiarism is not only grounds for disciplinary action on the part of the university. It may also be grounds for legal action.

# Consequences of Plagiarism

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- One way that plagiarism can be grounds for legal action is when it includes copyright infringement. Copyright infringement is not merely a matter of failing to give proper credit to one's sources. Excessive use of another's original work, even if the source is properly acknowledged, may be a copyright infringement. The owner of the copyright may sue the plagiarist in federal court for violation of the copyright. Sentences may be as high as \$250,000 in fines *and* 10 years in federal prison.
- Any work created in the USA after 1 Mar 1989 is automatically protected by copyright, even if there is no copyright notice attached to the work.  
(17 USC §§ 102, 401, and 405)

# Consequences of Plagiarism

- **Colleges and universities have the right to revoke an academic degree on the grounds of plagiarism *even after the degree has been awarded.***
- An example of this occurred when the Ohio Appellate Court upheld the right of Kent State University to revoke the Bachelor's Degree of a student 17 years after it was awarded. [*Waliga v. Board of Trustees*, 488 N.E.2d 850 (Ohio 1986)].



# What is plagiarism?

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- Passing off someone else's work as your own.
- Failing to put an author's words in quotation marks.
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation.
- Changing an author's words while retaining his or her sentence structure without giving credit.
- Using others' words or ideas so much that they comprise the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

# What is plagiarism?

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- Self-plagiarism: Failing to cite your own previous work as a source is also a form of plagiarism.
- While some people do not believe that self-plagiarism is really a form of plagiarism, it does constitute a violation of copyright.
- Most colleges and universities consider reusing your papers to be a violation of academic standards, even if they do not term it “plagiarism”.

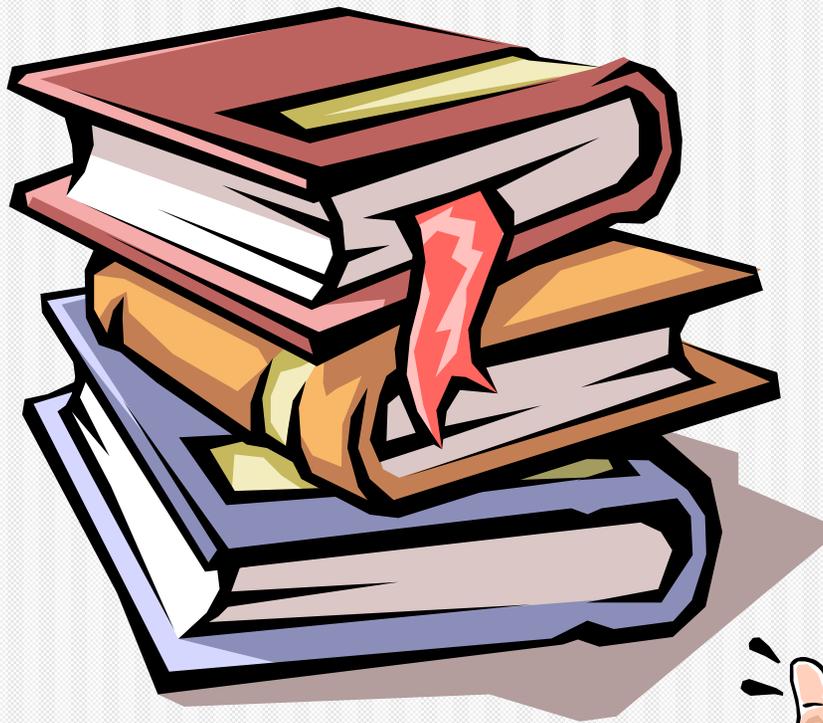
# What is plagiarism?

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- It is not enough that you change the words of the original source. If you paraphrase and retain the idea from the original without citing the source, you are plagiarizing.

# Avoiding Plagiarism: Taking time for research

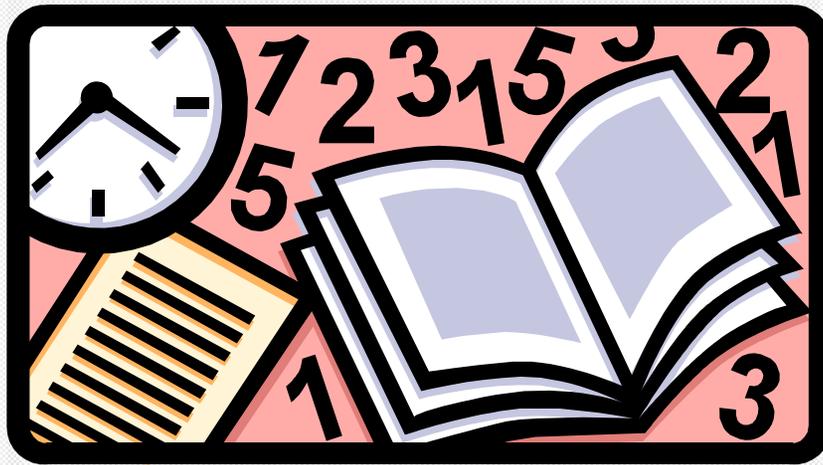
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- When you don't give yourself enough time to gather, read and absorb research material, you can be tempted to plagiarize.
- Allow plenty of time to gather research.
- Allow time for reading, absorbing, rereading, taking notes, etc.
- Rule of thumb: Estimate how much time it will take you to do your research and double it.

# Avoiding plagiarism: Taking notes carefully

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- Don't be sloppy when taking notes!
- When your notes are sloppy, you may have difficulty distinguishing your own words from another author's. You may not know when you have copied passages exactly and when you have paraphrased them.

# Avoiding plagiarism: Taking notes carefully

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- Identify the author's words that you copy directly: highlight them, print them in a different color, etc. Be sure to note the exact beginning and end of the quoted passage. Be sure that you copy the wording, punctuation, and spelling exactly as it appears in the original.
- Identify the page number, author and title, even when you are paraphrasing.
- Make sure you include all of the information necessary for a full bibliographical citation.



Rule of thumb: keep a working bibliography, including all databases and reference works you examine, even if you don't use them in your paper.

# Avoiding plagiarism: Citing sources

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- Most plagiarism can be avoided by citing your sources
- **What is citation?** A "citation" is the way you tell your readers that certain material in your work came from another source. It also gives your readers the information necessary to find that source again.

# Avoiding plagiarism: Citing sources

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- Properly documenting your sources requires that you provide the following information:
  - information about the author
  - the title of the work
  - the name and location of the company that published your copy of the source
  - the date your copy was published
  - the page numbers of the material you are borrowing

# Avoiding plagiarism: Citing sources

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- **Common knowledge**, such as historic facts and geographic data, can be used without giving credit. Facts of common knowledge are facts that can be found in numerous places and are likely to be known by a lot of people.
  - Example: John F. Kennedy was elected President of the United States in 1960. This is generally known information. **You do not need to document this fact.**
- However, you must document facts that are not generally known and ideas that interpret facts.
  - Example: According the American Family Leave Coalition's new book, *Family Issues and Congress*, President Bush's relationship with Congress has hindered family leave legislation (6).
  - The idea that "Bush's relationship with Congress has hindered family leave legislation" is not a fact but an *interpretation*; thus you must cite the source.



Rule of thumb: if you find the information in 5 sources without citation, you can consider it "common knowledge".

# Avoiding plagiarism: Citing sources

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Avoiding plagiarism is not the only reason to cite your sources:

- Citing sources allows others to look more closely at your research and ideas.
- Citing sources allows others to assess whether your sources are good sources or not, and whether your ideas are better than the ideas of your sources.
- Citing your sources means that you can trace bad ideas back to their origins. You don't have to take the blame for bad ideas.
- Citing your sources demonstrates the amount and quality of your research.
- Citing your sources offers additional, outside support to your own ideas.

# Avoiding plagiarism: Citing sources

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Whenever you use another's words or ideas, you need to acknowledge their source. You should cite your sources in the following situations:

- Whenever you quote an author
- Whenever you paraphrase
- Whenever you use another's idea that has already been expressed (in print, in conversation, etc)
- Whenever specifically refer to the work of another
- Whenever someone else has been crucial in developing your own ideas.



# Avoiding plagiarism: Citing sources

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- Types of sources that should be documented include:
  - Printed material (books, journals, newspaper articles, etc.)
  - Electronic sources (web pages, email, software, etc.)
  - Images (art works, tables, charts, illustration, etc.)
  - Recorded or spoken material (course lectures, videos and films, TV and radio broadcasts, interviews, etc.)

# Avoiding plagiarism: Citing sources

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- Know the manual of style used by your academic department. Sometimes you will need to use different manuals of style for the different courses you are taking.
- Basic information on how to cite your sources can be found at:  
<http://library.csudh.edu/cyberlib/research.htm>

# Recognizing acceptable paraphrasing

## ■ Original:

The rise of industry, the growth of cities, and the expansion of the population were the three great developments of late nineteenth century American history. As new, larger, steam-powered factories became a feature of the American landscape in the East, they transformed farm hands into industrial laborers, and provided jobs for a rising tide of immigrants. With industry came urbanization the growth of large cities (like Fall River, Massachusetts, where the Bordens lived) which became the centers of production as well as of commerce and trade.

- page 1 of *Lizzie Borden: A Case Book of Family and Crime in the 1890s* by Joyce Williams et al.
- Examples from [www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html)

- **Unacceptable Paraphrase:** The increase of industry, the growth of cities, and the explosion of the population were three large factors of nineteenth century America. As steam-driven companies became more visible in the eastern part of the country, they changed farm hands into factory workers and provided jobs for the large wave of immigrants. With industry came the growth of large cities like Fall River where the Bordens lived which turned into centers of commerce and trade as well as production.

- **Plagiarism:** "This paraphrase is considered plagiarism because the writer has only changed a few words and phrases, or changed the order of the sentences, and the writer has failed to cite a source for any of the ideas or facts. **NOTE:** This paragraph is also problematic because it changes the sense of several sentences (for example, "steam-driven companies" in sentence two misses the original's emphasis on factories)."

# Recognizing acceptable paraphrasing

- **Original:**

The rise of industry, the growth of cities, and the expansion of the population were the three great developments of late nineteenth century American history. As new, larger, steam-powered factories became a feature of the American landscape in the East, they transformed farm hands into industrial laborers, and provided jobs for a rising tide of immigrants. With industry came urbanization the growth of large cities (like Fall River, Massachusetts, where the Bordens lived) which became the centers of production as well as of commerce and trade.

- page 1 of *Lizzie Borden: A Case Book of Family and Crime in the 1890s* by Joyce Williams et al.

- **Acceptable Paraphrase:** Fall River, where the Borden family lived, was typical of northeastern industrial cities of the nineteenth century. Steam-powered production had shifted labor from agriculture to manufacturing, and as immigrants arrived in the US, they found work in these new factories. As a result, populations grew, and large urban areas arose. Fall River was one of these manufacturing and commercial centers (Williams 1).

- **Why is this passage acceptable?**

- "This is acceptable paraphrasing because the writer accurately relays the information in the original, uses her own words and lets her reader know the source of her information."

# Recognizing acceptable paraphrasing

## ■ Original:

The rise of industry, the growth of cities, and the expansion of the population were the three great developments of late nineteenth century American history. As new, larger, steam-powered factories became a feature of the American landscape in the East, they transformed farm hands into industrial laborers, and provided jobs for a rising tide of immigrants. With industry came urbanization the growth of large cities (like Fall River, Massachusetts, where the Bordens lived) which became the centers of production as well as of commerce and trade.

- page 1 of *Lizzie Borden: A Case Book of Family and Crime in the 1890s* by Joyce Williams et al.

## ■ **Acceptable Paraphrase:**

Fall River, where the Borden family lived, was typical of northeastern industrial cities of the nineteenth century. As steam-powered production shifted labor from agriculture to manufacturing, the demand for workers "transformed farm hands into industrial laborers," and created jobs for immigrants. In turn, growing populations increased the size of urban areas. Fall River was one of these hubs "which became the centers of production as well as of commerce and trade" (Williams 1).

### **Why is this passage acceptable?**

- "The writer records the information in the original passage accurately, gives credit for the ideas in this passage, and indicates which part is taken directly from her source by putting the passage in quotation marks and citing the page number. Note that using another person's phrases or sentences without putting quotation marks around them is considered plagiarism **EVEN IF THE WRITER CITES IN HER OWN TEXT THE SOURCE OF THE PHRASES OR SENTENCES SHE HAS QUOTED.**"