

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined in the American Heritage Dictionary as follows: "To steal and use the ideas of writings of another as one's own...; to take and use as one's own the writings of another."

Plagiarism is theft. It leads the reader to believe that what he is reading is the original thought of the writer when this is not true. Plagiarism is a serious offense in the academic world and carries appropriate punishment.

We wish to remind you of the common forms of plagiarism often used in term papers and provide examples of both acceptable and unacceptable research practices.

Direct Quotations: "This is an exact copy of a portion of the original; it may be a single word, phrase, sentence fragment, complete sentence or one or more paragraphs. If you quote directly, place the portion in quotation marks and cite the source in your footnotes." To do otherwise is plagiarism.

Paraphrase: Paraphrasing means expressing the author's idea in your own words and style. Merely changing or re-arranging the original by a word or two or reversing the order or phrases is still plagiarism. To avoid unintentional plagiarism, re-phrase the statement in your own words without looking at the original.

rule of Thumb: If you use three or more words in sequence the way the author wrote them, put them in quotes and cite the source; otherwise, paraphrase and cite the source. It's easy, honest and demonstrates truthful and commendable research practice.

"I have read and understand the meaning of plagiarism."

Name _____