

Before the Plagiarism Exercise

Before completing the in-class plagiarism exercise, assign the chapters of the *McGraw-Hill Handbook* entitled “Plagiarism, Copyright, and Intellectual Property” and “Working with Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism.” As some of the research tips in the latter chapter may be less relevant to a discussion of plagiarism, per se, you can choose to assign only pages 306-14 and 322-32 at this time. Have students write down any questions they have about the chapters, complete Exercises 21.1 and 21.2 for homework, and bring the *McGraw-Hill Handbook* to class for reference.

Florida State University Academic Honor Policy—Penalties

Transitioning from high school- to college-level work involves not only completing more complex assignments but also adhering to more rigorous standards of academic integrity. The First-Year Composition Program’s plagiarism policy adheres to Florida State University’s Academic Honor Policy, which you can view at <http://academichonor.fsu.edu/policy/policy.html>. Students who violate the Academic Honor Policy can face severe penalties, including:

- Additional academic work
- Reduced grade (including “0” or “F”) for the assignment
- Reduced grade (including “F”) for the course
- Reprimand (written or verbal)
- Educational Activities
- Restitution
- Conduct Probation
- Disciplinary Probation
- Suspension
- Dismissal
- Expulsion
- Withholding of diplomas, transcripts, or other records
- Suspension of degree
- Revocation of degree.

Because you could face severe consequences for violating the Academic Integrity Policy, you should avoid making any mistakes, whether intentionally or accidentally. Please speak up at any time if you have any questions about academic integrity in general or plagiarism in particular.

Flagrant Plagiarism

Paragraph 1 of the Florida State University Academic Honor Policy states:

PLAGIARISM. Presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source).

Typical Examples Include: Using another's work from print, web, or other sources without acknowledging the source; quoting from a source without citation; using facts, figures, graphs, charts or information without acknowledgement of the source.

The first two typical examples of plagiarism outlined in the Academic Honor Policy correspond to deliberate plagiarism and blatant borrowing, concepts you should recognize from high school, even if you have not seen the exact terminology before.

- Deliberate Plagiarism: Submitting under your name an assignment that is not your own original work, including assignments written by or copied from another individual,

whether with or without that individual's knowledge, consent or compensation. Buying an essay, borrowing from a friend, or cheating off another student all fall under this category.

- **Blatant Borrowing:** Copying an exact phrase, sentence, or longer passage from a source and passing it off as your own original idea and/or language by omitting quotation marks and/or in-text and/or bibliographic source citations.

Do you understand why both deliberate plagiarism and blatant borrowing would be considered academically dishonest behaviors? How could you avoid committing these kinds of flagrant plagiarism? (Produce your assignments yourself. Use quotation marks, in-text parenthetical citations, and works cited page bibliographic citations to attribute direct quotes to your sources.)

Inappropriate Paraphrase and Summary

The third typical example of plagiarism outlined in the Academic Honor Policy, "using facts, figures, graphs, charts or information without [proper] acknowledgement of the source," refers to inappropriate paraphrase and summary. Your high school may not have emphasized or penalized these issues, so this may be entirely new material for you. If you have any questions, please ask, because inappropriate paraphrase and summary can result in serious punishments at FSU, as outlined in the Academic Honor Policy.

In the chapter "Working with Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism," which you read for homework, the *McGraw-Hill Handbook* defines paraphrase as "put[ting] someone else's statements into your words and sentence structures. A paraphrase should be about the same length and level of detail as the original" (Maimon et al. 322). Summary is a "condens[ed]" paraphrase that focuses on a source's "main points" (Maimon et al. 326-27). Even though both summary and paraphrase are written in your own words, they use someone else's ideas. Thus, the source of those ideas must be given credit through full and correct in-text parenthetical and works cited page bibliographic citations. Name your source and use "signal phrases" (Maimon et al. 329-32) to introduce paraphrase or summary, omit quotation marks where you replace your source's words with original language, and follow your paraphrase or summary with an in-text parenthetical citation naming your source and page (Maimon et al. 346 #10).

Consider the famous line from Mario Puzo's novel *The Godfather*, "I'll make him an offer he can't refuse," which Don Vito Corleone says about Hollywood mogul Jack Woltz (Puzo 28). Why are the following attempted paraphrases inappropriate?

1. *Jack Woltz can't refuse Don Corleone's offer (Puzo 28).* This borrows the source's exact language without using quotation marks and thus constitutes plagiarism. Fix by using your own original language or by placing quotation marks around any word, phrase, or passage that uses your source's exact language, e.g., *Jack Woltz must accept Don Corleone's proposition (Puzo 28)* or *Jack Woltz "can't refuse" Don Corleone's "offer" (Puzo 28).*
2. *Don Vito Corleone shall render Jack Woltz a proposition that Woltz cannot decline (Puzo 28).* This follows the source's syntax, or sentence structure, substituting synonyms for the original words and thus constitutes plagiarism. Fix by using your own original syntax or by directly quoting the passage and placing it within quotation marks, e.g., *Jack Woltz must accept Don Corleone's proposition (Puzo 28)* or *Vito Corleone insists, "I'll make him an offer he can't refuse" (Puzo 28).*
3. *Don Vito Corleone predicts that Jack Woltz will succumb to his demands.* This lacks an in-text citation for the source of ideas, opinions, or information and thus constitutes plagiarism. Fix by providing an in-text parenthetical citation at the end of the paraphrased material and

possibly also by introducing the paraphrase through naming the source in your sentence, e.g., *Don Vito Corleone predicts that Jack Woltz will succumb to his demands (Puzo 28; Coppola; “The Godfather (1972)—Memorable Quotes”)* or *Puzo suggests that Don Corleone predicts Jack Woltz will succumb to his demands (28)*. But who is your source? Did you encounter this quote in Mario Puzo’s novel *The Godfather*? Francis Ford Coppola’s film *The Godfather*? On IMDb? On YouTube? Somewhere else? Or in multiple places?

Fabrication, Falsification, and Misrepresentation

This brings us to paragraph 4 of the Academic Honor Policy, which identifies:

FABRICATION, FALSIFICATION, AND MISREPRESENTATION.

Unauthorized altering or inventing of any information or citation that is used in assessing academic work.

Typical Examples Include: Inventing or counterfeiting data or information; falsely citing the source of information; altering the record of or reporting false information about practicum or clinical experiences; altering grade reports or other academic records; submitting a false excuse for absence or tardiness in a scheduled academic exercise; lying to an instructor to increase a grade.

“[F]alsely citing the source of information” would include citing Puzo’s novel for information you really got from Coppola’s film or citing Coppola’s film for information you really got from YouTube or citing Puzo’s novel for information you really got from IMDb. From an ethical standpoint, claiming to have consulted a source you did not consult is “fabrication, falsification, and misrepresentation”—a violation of the Academic Honor Policy.

From a practical standpoint, you will not have the full context for a quote from a source that you have not consulted. Thus, if you erroneously cite a source that differs in language, content, or meaning from the source you actually consulted, you could and should be penalized for any discrepancy as your personal error. In the case of the *Godfather*, Don Vito Corleone’s line in Puzo’s novel is “I’ll make him an offer he can’t refuse” (28); in the film, Marlon Brando, who plays Don Vito, says “I’m gonna make him an offer he can’t refuse”; and IMDb quotes Brando as saying “I’m gonna make him an offer he won’t refuse.” Thus, in this instance, “falsely citing the source” would mean that your direct quote would not match the language of your cited source, an error that would render your paper factually inaccurate and would show your instructor that you violated the Academic Honor Policy by misrepresenting your source. If you appropriately cite the source you consulted, on the other hand, your instructor will be able to attribute any potential errors to your *source*, not to *you*.

The “fabrication, falsification, and misrepresentation” policy especially applies to original research and indirect sources. When conducting original research, such as experiments or surveys, do not falsify data. When using indirect sources, which the *McGraw-Hill Handbook* defines as “quot[ing] or paraphrase[ing] a quotation [or paraphrase] you found in someone else’s work,” you need to give credit both to the source that originally thought or wrote this passage and also to the source where you encountered it. Either in your sentence or as the first word of your in-text citation, you must name the author of the original quote or idea (i.e., your source’s source). Continue your in-text citation by writing qtd. in (i.e., quoted in), the name of your source, and the page number (Maimon et al. 349 #23).

Multiple Submission

Another significant violation of the Academic Honor Policy is self-plagiarism, which is

outlined in paragraph 5:

MULTIPLE SUBMISSION. Submitting the same academic work (including oral presentations) for credit more than once without instructor permission. It is each instructor's responsibility to make expectations regarding incorporation of existing academic work into new assignments clear to the student in writing by the time assignments are given.

Typical Examples Include: Submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without instructor permission; making minor revisions in a credited paper or report (including oral presentations) and submitting it again as if it were new work.

Although "multiple submission" involves submitting your own work, not someone else's work, it falls on the plagiarism and academic dishonesty spectrum because the work in question is no longer original. Submitting identical or similar work multiple times and/or in multiple places, including work previously submitted elsewhere prior to your matriculation at FSU, is a violation of the Academic Honor Policy.

Your instructor may refuse to allow you to work with material submitted for another course at any stage of the drafting process, as "multiple submission" violates the Academic Honor Policy. Because "First-Year Composition courses at FSU teach writing as a recursive and frequently collaborative process of invention, drafting, and revising" ("First-Year Composition Mission Statement"), however, your instructor may choose, at his or her own sole discretion, to allow you to use similar work that you have produced in another course as the first draft of an assignment. You may work with material submitted for another class if and only if you inform your instructor of the existence of this similar work immediately, receive your instructor's approval, provide your instructor with a copy of this similar work promptly, and fully, actively, and appropriately draft, workshop, and revise this material.

Please remember that the lists of typical examples of violations of the Academic Honor Policy are not exhaustive. When in doubt, always consult your instructor, produce your own original work, name your sources in your sentences, use quotation marks around your source's exact language, provide in-text parenthetical citations after any words or ideas from sources, and list all sources fully and accurately on your works cited page.

Works Cited

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