

Florida State University Honor Code Statement

Academic Honor Code: “The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility to: 1) Uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student’s own work, 2) Refuse to tolerate violations of the academic integrity in the academic community, and 3) Foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community.”

English Departmental Statement

Plagiarism is grounds for suspension from the university as well as for failure in this course. It will not be tolerated. Any instance of plagiarism must be reported to the Director of First-Year Writing and the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Plagiarism is a counterproductive, dishonest behavior that is unacceptable in courses intended to aid the growth of individual writers.

Plagiarism is included among the violations defined in the Academic Honor Code, section b), paragraph 2, as follows: “Regarding academic assignments, violations of the Academic Honor Code shall include representing another’s work or any part thereof, be it published or unpublished, as one’s own.”

A plagiarism education assignment that further explains this issue will be administered in all first-year writing courses during the second week of class. All students will be responsible for completing the assignment and asking questions regarding any parts they do not fully understand.

Plagiarism Definition

In *The Curious Researcher*, Bruce Ballenger defines plagiarism as “using others’ ideas or words as if they were your own” (130). Plagiarism can range in scope from accidentally forgetting to place quotation marks around a borrowed sentence, to careless paraphrasing, to deliberately trying to pass off someone else’s paper as your own. Plagiarism is always a serious violation of The Florida State University Academic Honor Code and English Department policy. As a university student you have many educational opportunities and obligations. Plagiarism should never be an option. When you plagiarize, you deny yourself the opportunity to express your own ideas in an academic forum and exhibit your own learning. You are also failing in your obligations to be an active member of an educational community.

What is Plagiarism?

- **Deliberate Plagiarism:**
Handing in a paper (as your own work) that you have bought, had a friend write, or copied from another student or the Internet is considered blatant plagiarism and will not be tolerated.
- **Forgetting to Use Quotation Marks**
Any word, phrase, sentence, or passage copied from a source must be placed in quotation

marks. Leaving out the quotation marks constitutes plagiarism. Writers should weave quotes into their own writing and give proper citation to the original author.

- **Blatant Borrowing:**

Copying or downloading a phrase, a sentence, or a longer passage from a source and passing it off as your own by omitting quotation marks and a source citation constitutes plagiarism.

- **Sloppy Paraphrasing:**

Paraphrasing someone else's ideas without acknowledging a source with proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Paraphrasing involves putting a passage from published material into your own words. Paraphrased material is often shorter than the original passage, and if cited properly, can be a legitimate way to emphasize points in one's paper. It also helps writers control the temptation to quote too much. In addition, the mental process of successful paraphrasing helps one grasp the full meaning of the original material.

- **Other Forms of Plagiarism:**

Omitting a source citation from a paraphrase because of carelessness constitutes plagiarism, as does omitting a source citation for another's idea.

Material is probably “Common Knowledge” if:

- You find the same information undocumented in at least five other sources.
- You have good reason to believe it is information that your readers will already know.
- Your material is known by individuals within your field of study or cultural group.

Interviewing

When you use information through an interview (or a conversation) with someone, these words and ideas must be cited. Interviews can be conducted in person, through e-mail, on the phone, and through post mail.

Samples of Student Texts Created from Original Sources

A student in a second-semester first-year writing course is writing a researched essay on social trends in the last ten years that have influenced the popularity of tattoos. Among the sources she uses in her paper are one from the Internet, one from a book, and one from a journal. Below you will find both the original source material and passages from the student's paper in which she uses the original source material. Study each example and rewrite if she has plagiarized.

Example of material from internet source

Source: Hemingson, Vince. *Tattoos and the World's 100 Sexiest Women*. N.p., 2002. Web. 12 Jun 2003. < http://www.vanishingtattoo.com/top100_women_tattoos.htm >.

This is the original source:

How many of the world's top 100 sexiest women have tattoos? *FMH* Magazine published their annual list of the 100 Sexiest Women in the World 2002 as voted on by their readers. The poll offers a fascinating insight into the popularity of tattoos among female celebrities. A quick look at the Top 100 list reveals that one of the things that many of the women picked have in common is body art, i.e. tattoos!

This is the student's paper:

Many of the world's top 100 sexiest women have tattoos. Two years ago *FMH* Magazine published their annual list of the 100 Sexiest Women in the World as voted on by their readers. The poll offers a fascinating insight into the popularity of tattoos among female celebrities. A quick look at the Top 100 list reveals that one of the things that many of the women picked have in common is body art, i.e. tattoos!

Did this student plagiarize? If so, rewrite the student text so that it is not plagiarized and be ready to provide examples to substantiate your position.

Example of material from a book

Source: Addonizio, Kim and Cheryl Dumesnil. Introduction. *Dorothy Parker's Elbow: Tattoos on Writers, Writers on Tattoos*. New York: Warner Books, 2002. xiii-xvi.

From the source:

Clearly, tattooing has emerged from the underbelly to the surface of the American landscape. And as the popularity of tattoos has expanded, so has the art itself. No longer restricted to Bettie Page look-alikes, muddy blue anchors, and ribbon-wrapped hearts reading "Mom," today's tattoo images make bold statements of personality, as individualized and varied as any art form. (xiii)

From the student's paper:

It's a fact that tattoos have arisen from the underbelly to the top of the American landscape. Tattooing has experienced a growing popularity, and so has the art itself. It is no longer limited to sailor-style ships and blue anchors, or biker-type hearts reading "Mom." Today's images

include bold statements of individualized personality as diverse as any art form (Addonizio and Dumesnil xiii).

Did this student avoid plagiarism in her attempt to summarize material from her source? Why or why not? If it is plagiarized, rewrite the student text so that it is not plagiarized and be ready to provide examples to substantiate your position.

Example of material from a journal

Source: *Clinical Nursing* 10 (2001): 424-41.

From the source:

Participants queried represented a wide age range—between 19 and 55. Results showed that participants perceived few health risks involving piercing and tattooing and desired additional piercings and/or tattoos. Individual expression was an important body alteration motivation for both piercing and tattooing. These findings underscore the importance of health care professionals' maintaining nonjudgmental attitudes about those who alter their bodies, there by facilitating important health education concerning related health risks.

From the student's paper:

According to the journal *Clinical Nursing*, individuals who wanted to have tattoos or piercings do not consider the health risks involved. This makes it clear that for health care professionals, an open-minded attitude towards patients with tattoos or piercings facilitates the optimal environment for important health education concerning related health risks.

Did the student avoid plagiarism in her attempt to paraphrase the source material? Why or why not? If it is plagiarized, rewrite the student text so that it is not plagiarized and be ready to provide examples to substantiate your position.

Tips To Avoid Plagiarism:

- Use quotations around anything borrowed word for word.
- Cite your quotations and factual information and provide a corresponding Works Cited page. In First-Year Composition classes, MLA is the appropriate model for citations.
- Introducing your sources within the text of your paper helps you to avoid plagiarism.
- When paraphrasing, be sure to give credit to the source you are paraphrasing from.
- Do not turn in a single paper for more than one class.
- Do not turn in a paper that you did not write.
- While researching, make sure to take careful notes and write down all the information needed for citing your work as you find material you want to use. If you cannot find the source that you got your data from, do not use it.

You must give credit for the following:

- Direct quotations from your source.
- Facts, data, and information based on other people's research.
- Paraphrases of another's work.
- Ideas, opinions, and interpretations that are not your own or that you got from another source.
- Charts, graphs, pictures, images, and raw data that you did not put together yourself.
- Comments from lectures, conversations, and interviews.

What you do not have to cite:

- Research and raw data that you have compiled yourself.
- Widely known facts/common knowledge. "Common knowledge": This refers to information so widely known (or accepted to be valid) that no supporting facts or cited research is needed to back it up, such as the following: *World War II ended in August of 1945*. Almost no one will dispute this statement, and it is commonly accepted without debate. "Common knowledge" statements can be passages like this: *Television ratings for the Super Bowl are traditionally so high that advertisers spend millions of dollars to advertise their clients' products during the broadcast*. Again, this claim refers to topics so extensively researched/documented that it is not necessary to provide an authoritative source to support it. But be aware: what is common knowledge to you may not necessarily be common knowledge to another reader, so cite any information you feel might be unknown to those outside whatever specific topic you're writing on.
- Your own opinions, conclusions, and feelings about your topic.