

What, Why, and How?

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INTEGRATING SOURCES:

Plagiarism:

* Definition and repercussions

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

While some cultures may not insist so heavily on documenting sources of words, ideas, images, sounds, etc., American culture does. To be fair and ethical, you must always acknowledge your debt to the writers of the sources you use. Uncredited use (both intentional and unintentional) of somebody else's words or ideas is plagiarism, which a serious academic offense.

The following acts are considered plagiarism:

- (1) Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit;
- (2) Failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks;
- (3) Changing words but using the sentence structure of a source;
- (4) Mixing an author's phrases with your own without citation or quotes.
- (5) Turning in someone else's work as your own.

WHY IS PLAGIARISM BAD?

- Plagiarism is stealing and stealing is illegal. We all know that stealing physical property is a criminal offense but you should also know that stealing intellectual property, which is protected under copyright law, is also a criminal offense.
- You can't strengthen your own writing skills (skills necessary to be successful in college, the workplace, and life) if you are submitting the work of someone else and not doing the work yourself.
- You lose the trust and goodwill of your instructor.
- You lose your own satisfaction and self-pride that comes from earned accomplishments.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I PLAGIARIZE?

- You will receive a failing grade of "F" on the plagiarized assignment.
- Your name can be submitted to the dean to be added to a list of students who have been guilty of plagiarizing, and this list can be shared with your current and future instructors.
- You may be referred to the College Disciplinarian for further sanctions which range from a warning to expulsion from Skyline College.