



Avoiding Plagiarism: Citing Sources

Your “paper is a collaboration between you and your sources. To be fair and ethical, you must acknowledge your debt to the writers of those sources. If you don't, you are guilty of plagiarism, a serious academic offence” (Hacker, 2003, p. 383).

Hacker, D. (2003). *A writer's reference*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Definition of Plagiarism

- Claiming as your own another person's language, ideas, images, or other original materials

Examples of Plagiarism

- Borrowing language, ideas, statistics, or images, etc. without citation
- Summarizing or paraphrasing ideas without citation
- Quoting verbatim without citation and/or without quotation marks
- Copying and pasting text without citation
- Inadequate or incorrect citation of sources
- Submitting someone else's work
- Having someone else write your paper
- Buying a paper

Causes of Plagiarism

- Inaccurate understanding of crediting sources
- Incorrect citations
- Poor time management
- Ineffective note taking

Reasons to Avoid Plagiarism

- It's a form of stealing (you're taking someone else's ideas).
- It's a form of lying (you're pretending someone else's ideas are yours).
- It's unfair to other students (they work hard to acknowledge others' ideas but you're not).
- You're not only breaking the Simmons Honor Code, but you're also compromising your own integrity (you're claiming to be honest when you're not).

Citation Strategies

- Acknowledge that you used someone else's ideas.
- Learn the rules of your discipline's citation style.
- Take accurate notes and keep track of sources.

Resources

- Simmons Writing Center: simmons.edu/offices/writing-center/
- Indiana University's plagiarism tutorial: indiana.edu/~istd/
- Purdue University's online writing lab: owl.english.purdue.edu/