

FAQs: Plagiarism

Q: Is it plagiarism if I worked on an assignment in a group?

A: If something is written by more than one person, all authors must be cited. If you worked on something in a group, but only put your name on it, you would be plagiarizing. *Be sure to name all of the authors of a project.*

Q: What if I put something in a paper and just change one word?

A: This is a classic example of plagiarism. Only changing one word is still plagiarism. *Just changing one word in a sentence is never OK.*

Q: What if I summarize or paraphrase someone else's work?

A: Paraphrasing means putting something into your own words. This is alright to do as long as you provide information about where the information or ideas came from. *Always give credit to the author you have paraphrased.*

Q: Isn't my entire paper going to be other people's words or ideas then?

A: Your job as a writer is to educate your reader about a topic. To do this you should provide plenty of ideas from other people! *Your job is to make connections with those ideas, and even to provide some of your own.*

Q: What if I don't know how to cite a source?

A: That is what your teacher is for! You will be reviewing citing sources in class, and you can always get extra help with what you don't understand. *You can always look it up yourself! One great resource is Purdue's on-line writing lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/oldindex.html>*

Q: What happens if a teacher thinks there is not adequate citation in my paper?

A: At GWCS, teachers expect you to cite your sources. *If you do not, expect a lower grade.*

- Intentional plagiarism (like downloading or copying a whole paper) may result in failure in the class for one quarter, for the first offense. The second offense may result in the failure of one semester. The third offense may result in expulsion from school.
- Substantial lack of citations (like turning in an original paper without carefully citing information) will result in a zero, with the possibility of revision. Students who continue to turn in papers with a substantial lack of citations will be counseled.

You won't get accused of plagiarism if you ask questions, try your best and work carefully!