

How to Avoid Plagiarism at PTC

Student Resources

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is taking someone else's ideas and words and calling them your own original work. With the abundance of information at your fingertips through the internet, the temptation may be there to "cut and paste" words and thoughts into your assignments and to call them your own original work. This is often referred to as "academic dishonesty or fraud" and individuals can be subject to censure or, in other words, to face the consequences of their dishonesty/fraud.

This does not mean that students cannot use other's ideas and words. If you do, however, you need to give credit where credit is due. This can be accomplished through a variety of means and the most common method is to cite your source.

For more information on what exactly is plagiarism, visit the Duke University Libraries site by clicking [here](#). According to the Duke University Libraries site,

"Plagiarism charges can be brought against you for the following offenses:

- Copying, quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing from any source without adequate documentation
- Purchasing a pre-written paper (either by mail or electronically)
- Letting someone else write a paper for you
- Paying someone else to write a paper for you
- Submitting as your own someone else's unpublished work, either with or without permission" (Duke University Libraries, 2007)

Also, click [here](#) for additional examples of what plagiarism can be.

Claiming ignorance of how to cite a source is not an acceptable excuse for plagiarizing. If you cut and paste words into your own files with the intention of quoting them, make sure you identify where they came from immediately, so there are no "honest mistakes" when you get around to putting them in your written assignment. It is up to each student to know how to appropriately cite one's sources when completing assignments. The resources found at this site should assist you in doing so.

For more information on why individuals may plagiarize, visit [Educational Tips on Plagiarism Prevention](#).

Why do I need to be concerned with plagiarism?

Plagiarism is a violation of PTC's [Student Code of Conduct](#). If a student is found to plagiarize an assignment, faculty can give zero credit for the assignment that was plagiarized. Also, the Dean of Students is notified and formal disciplinary action may be taken.

What tools are available to me to know how to cite my sources in written documents?

Students are expected to use the appropriate citation format for assignments. The appropriate citation format will vary according to the student's discipline or program. Most students who have taken the Reading Strategies, Writing Foundations and/or College Composition course (or the equivalent at another institution) will learn the MLA (Modern Language Association) style. However, students in different program areas (for example, education or human services) may be required to use the APA (American Psychological Association) style as that is the expected citation format for those career areas.

To appropriately use the MLA style, visit:

[Citation Styles](#)

[MLA Overview and Workshop](#)

To appropriately use the APA style, visit:

[Citation Styles](#)

[APA Overview and Workshop](#)

For interactive tutorials where you can practice creating citations:

[Interactive Tutorial for Students](#)

[Creating Citations](#)

For information on practices to use to avoid plagiarizing, visit:

[Preventing Plagiarism When Writing](#)

[Safe Practices](#)

For further information and tutorials/exercises:

An online tutorial and 10 question quiz that can be completed and the results printed and shared with an instructor (if required):

[Understanding Plagiarism](#)

Exercises asking students to identify whether citations were used appropriately:

[Safe Practices: An Exercise](#)

Animated flash tutorial on creating appropriate citations:

[You Quote It, You Note It!](#)

References

Duke University Libraries. (2007). *Citing sources and avoiding plagiarism*. Retrieved from

<http://library.duke.edu/research/plagiarism/index.html>

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Faculty Resources

What are some suggestions on how to detect plagiarism in student assignments? What tools are available for faculty to detect plagiarism?

[Detecting Plagiarism](#)

Some websites sell papers to students. Information on these “paper mills” can be found at:

[Paper Mills](#)

What tools are available to help me teach students how to avoid plagiarizing?

[Guidelines for Plagiarism Prevention](#)

[How to Paraphrase Properly](#)

[Best Practices for Teachers](#)

Helpful handouts and case studies that can be printed and used with students:

[Printable handouts](#)

[Academic Integrity Case Studies \(University of Minnesota\)](#)

[Plagiarism Case Studies \(Lehman College\)](#)

[Understanding Plagiarism Online Tutorial and Quiz \(Indiana University\)](#)