

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the act of using another person's ideas or expressions in your writing without giving credit to the source. To plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else.

Plagiarism is ethically and morally inappropriate. At most, if not all, educational institutions, plagiarism is not tolerated and could result in failure of an assignment or even an entire course. It is also possible that a student may even be dismissed from that institution.

There are three common types of plagiarism:

- Quoting directly without giving credit to the source
- Paraphrasing without giving credit to the source
- Writing a paraphrase that closely resembles the original text

While sometimes plagiarism is intentional, other times it is not intentional. Many times students are just careless in documenting the information borrowed from other sources. In academic writing it is very common to present the ideas of others. Therefore, it is important that credit is given to the source. It is not only acceptable; it is expected in academic writing.