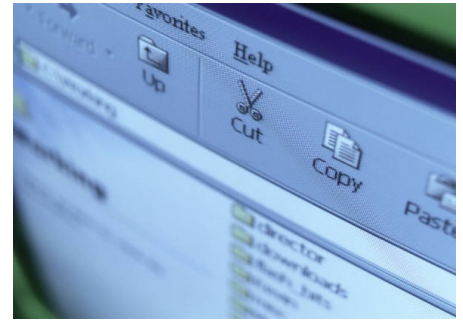


Avoiding Plagiarism



What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism literally means stealing someone else's intellectual property. Most students probably don't do it deliberately, but if it's difficult to understand what you are reading, or you haven't got time to express the information in your own words, you might just copy a passage straight from a book or download material from the Internet. You must acknowledge the source of everything you use in your work that did not come from you.

Copying shows I've done the research. What's the problem?

If you don't acknowledge where information comes from, it looks as though you're claiming it as your own idea.

What if my ideas are the same as what I've read?

Supporting your views with expert opinions adds to your academic credibility. You are more likely to get an 'A' if you demonstrate the connection between what you've read and what you think. The best essays use information from a range of sources (arguments for and against an issue, studies from different countries, periods, theoretical perspectives etc.) as a way of demonstrating your understanding of the topic.

Incorporate the material into your essay, establishing its context and significance:

According to Jackson (1998), " ... "

NB: Always indicate how the material relates to your argument:

(This shows...)

Acknowledge the source in two places:

- ◇ Within the essay.
- ◇ At the end, in a list titled 'References' or 'Reference List'.