

## STUDENT AWARENESS OF PLAGIARISM RULES

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**Annotation:** This scholarly article effectively addresses the pervasive issue of plagiarism among students, particularly those in higher education. The author immediately connects with the reader by presenting a relatable, high-pressure scenario involving assignment deadlines, procrastination, and the subsequent temptation to copy work. This narrative hook establishes the context: the ease of information flow online contributes to students, consciously or unconsciously, committing academic dishonesty.

**Key Words:** Plagiarism, Academic Integrity, Citation, Paraphrasing, Copy and Paste, Mosaic Plagiarism (Word Switching), Collusion, Self-Plagiarism, Common Knowledge, Source Attribution, Academic Writing, Research Ethics.

It is late midnight, you are to complete your tons of assignments to pass the final exam and you are feeling drowsy in spite of drinking energy-drinks and innumerable cups of coffee and finally you resign and decided to get everything done tomorrow morning after some sleep; yet, in that morning other problems emerged out of blue and you start to procrastinate again until you realize the deadline is on the horizon so that you do not have any choice but copying your work from someone else, promising that you will never do this again. Actually, this miserable scenario happens to almost every second students, particularly in higher education where students with endless information flow in the Internet students commit plagiarism consciously or unconsciously.

The word plagiarism must be familiar for the majority of people who are belong to academic realm: yet, it is mostly misunderstood as plagiarism is more beyond just directly copying from other texts. Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's language or ideas as one's own, without giving proper credit to the original author. As observed by McKenzie (2013) and Wiki (2014), it includes copying both words and source references without attribution. In this article, I will discuss what is considered plagiarism, what to do to avoid it and why it is crucial to be aware of it.

There are six types of plagiarisms that we will be discussing:

- Copy and paste

- Word switch
- Concealing source
- Collusion
- Misinterpreting common knowledge
- Self-plagiarism

One of the most common type of plagiarisms is copy and paste ( in other word cut and paste ). People are accused of this plagiarism when they just copy a part of a text or the entire one without giving credit to original author of the paragraph ( Niezgoda & Way, 2006, Trinchera, 2002 ). In 21<sup>st</sup> century in which just a click is enough to copy any text and with endless information flow in the internet , copy and paste is becoming increasingly common with the advent of technology, specifically AI ( Artificial intelligence). When AI gets any questions, it instantly starts searching appropriate information through many articles which are belong to other people and the majority of techy-savvy students believe that this information is AI generated so that copying and republishing it is acceptable Renard, 1999; Eret & Ok, 2014 cited in Gokmenoglu, 2017 Gullifer and Tyson). In order to avoid copy and paste plagiarism, giving proper citation in both text and reference list is the most effective solution.

Word switching (Mosaic plagiarism) is another type of plagiarism. In academic writings, it is not sufficient to change a few words while copying the rest of it. Even though an adequate citation is cited, it is still considered as a type of plagiarism unless you completely alter the text, maintaining the original idea. To paraphrase successfully without committing word switch plagiarism, it's highly advised to read the text first and get the overall meaning and then write down in your own language. After completing , the writer should come back to original source and reread in order to make sure that she/he could convey the meaning without any overlapping.

One of the serious form of plagiarism is concealing sources. Concealing sources means not giving credit or citation to the original author and personalizing the thoughts or words. For instance, when you take from different sources: books, articles, journals and so on yet fail to give any reference or explicitly citing the source is considered as plagiarism. Concealing plagiarism happens when a writer intentionally uses other's language, ideas, or other original (uncommon-knowledge) material without acknowledging its original source (Council of Writing Program Administrators, 2003, p. 1).

Collusion occurs when two or more people( students) share their assignments which are meant to be done individually. Most people, however, confuse between collusion and cooperation. When students work cooperatively, they distribute the work evenly, share their notes to have discussions on them and get any academic help if needed: yet, if students simply copy the notes and submit them as their own work, they become academically dishonest, committing collusion. “Collusion is the preparation

or production of work for assessment jointly with someone else, usually a friend or classmate” reported by Information Sheet C: Avoiding Plagiarism and Collusion: Guidance for candidates.

“Misinterpreting common knowledge” is the type of misunderstanding that students mostly encounter when writing academic papers. There are some facts and figures that the majority of people know about and they still feel dubious if they have to cite someone else (Yale Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning) . Nonetheless, students are to cite the original author or source if they use the specific work or data that are not widely recognized (Zhang, 2013, p. 394).

Self-plagiarism is another one of the most common types of plagiarisms. People are found to use self-plagiarism when they use their own ideas or academic works multiple times. To a certain extent, this practice seems inevitable and somewhat subconscious, especially for the authors who constantly work on the same topics and have a fixed writing style(Scanlon, 2007). In this case, the author ought to make sure that what types of selfreflection is adequate or inadequate for acceptance and according to Roig (2011), the author still should give citation to his/her previous articles where the same ideas are repeated.

Now a question might have arose in some of your mind: why it is all need to be learned and actually does being aware of plagiarism really matter. The answer is YES. If it were not so crucial, many prestigious institutions would not paid a meticulous attention to identify all types of plagiarisms and fight against it. Moreover, by preventing plagiarism, it is a way easier to encourage students to make research on different topics, expanding their knowledge. Plagiarism is like stealing other’s properties: but, here thoughts and ideas are robbed not physical belongings, meaning that paraphrasing properly and giving adequate citation to the real author can prevent y6from committing a crime. Furthermore, can affect people in their professional life: not only does it immediately cause the lost of reputation and trust among colleagues, but also it may come along with political legislation like short-term arrest or certain amount of fines. Therefore, being pure ensures stronger and safer academic achievements and professional accomplishments.

In conclusion, plagiarism occurs when you use other`s materials without giving credit to that person. Not only taking their ideas is considered plagiarism, but also just changing word orders, working on a project as a group when you have to perform alone and submitting your own previous work for the second time are also the most common types of committing plagiarism. However, there is one very successful way of avoiding plagiarism: giving citation(credit). Whenever you find any information from an article, website or book, you have to mention their names with the year in which that text was written. That said, you do not have to give any citation for statistics which is widely known. Under no circumstances, stealing or ‘borrowing ’other`s ideas and thoughts

can be acceptable by any institutions or universities. Therefore, keep the purity when you are working on any academic writing so as not to undermine your both personal and academic reputation.

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