Avoiding Plagiarism
Aims of this session

1. Understand what plagiarism is and what is covered by Marjon’s definition of plagiarism
2. Understand why people plagiarise and the consequences
3. Develop your understanding of techniques to avoid plagiarism through examples
Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity

- Honesty
- Respect
- Trust
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Courage

Taken from International Center for Academic Integrity. (2012). The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity. Clemson, SC: Clemson University Press.
What is plagiarism?

Academic Misconduct*

- Plagiarism
- Self-plagiarism
- Third party ‘authors’
- Making false claims
- Unauthorised collusion
- Cheating
- Impersonation
- Unethical conduct

The practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own.

Why do people plagiarise?

- Fear of failure
- Increase marks
- To help a friend
- Everybody does it
- Little understanding of plagiarism
- Laziness/convenience
- Teaching/learning issues
- Assignment deadlines
- Cultural differences
- Pride in plagiarising
- Poor academic skills
- Lack of confidence in abilities or self
- Pressure – academic, familial, social etc.
- Lack of incentive
- No awareness of plagiarism as an issue

Franklin-Stoakes & Newstead (1995)

Devlin & Gray (2007)

University of Auckland (2019)


Why should we avoid it?

Cascio (2019)

- Occupational incompetence
- Corrupted morals
- Academic advancement
- Personal trust
- The innocent
- Reputation

How can we avoid it?

University of Auckland (2019)

- Time management
- Stay motivated
- Work alongside others
- Learn new skills
- Invest time in anti-plagiarism skills

Avoid it: Paraphrase

Paraphrasing
The expression of a meaning using different words especially to achieve greater clarity.

Components of a good paraphrase

- Retains and honours the original meaning
- Demonstrates your subject synthesis
- Always acknowledges the original source

Paraphrasing techniques

1. Use synonyms
2. Change the form of words
3. Change the grammatical structure

Soller (2010) states that ‘Companies that show a genuine interest in charitable activities can earn the respect of the buying public.’

**Businesses** that **demonstrate** a **real** interest in **not-for-profit** activities can **gain** the respect of **consumers** (Soller, 2010).

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Michaels (2009) states that: ‘Some charities owe their success to the selective use of consultants.’

Some charities are more **successful** as consultants are employed **selectively** (Michaels, 2009).

Polson (2009) states: ‘Persuading the public to sign up to monthly donations is a more cost-effective policy than collecting single contributions.’

Collecting single contributions is **not as effective as** persuading the public to sign up to monthly donations (Polson, 2009).
**Avoid it: Summarise**

**Summarising**
Give a brief statement of the main points of a topic, text or argument

**Components of a good summary**
- Transforms a large amount of information into a smaller volume
- Captures the points that are salient to your argument
- Demonstrates your understanding of a concept in a succinct way

**Summarising techniques**

1. Map a concept with bullet points
2. Don’t include extra information
3. Remind your reader that it isn’t your work

In "My Favorite Shoe," Treyvon Jones explains that Nike shoes are the best brand of running shoe for serious track athletes. Jones supports this view by pointing out that Nike shoes are more comfortable, last longer, and provide more cushioning for the feet. He notes that the statistics from sales and scientific evidence of how Nike shoes are better for the feet support his claim. In addition, Jones points out that most professional runners use Nike and he tells his own story of how he won the 100-meter men's competition after switching to Nike shoes (2006, p. 45).
Avoid it: Quote

Quoting
Repeat or copy out words from an original source exactly as they appear

Components of a good quote
- Consistent formatting
- Edited to enhance the meaning
- Short and succinct

Quoting techniques
1. Edit your quotes
2. Omit material for emphasis
3. Quote warts and all
“Reading is also a process and it also changes you” (Atwood, 2008).

Margaret Atwood wanted her readers to realize that “reading is also a process and it also changes [them]” (2008, p. 30)
"In a book of that title, Anderson observes that with the possible exception of what he calls 'primordial villages,' human communities exist as imagined entities in which people 'will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them or even hear of them, yet in the mind of each member lives the image of their communion'” (Pratt, 2008, p. 582).

As Pratt notes, "Anderson observes that . . . human communities exist as imagined entitles in which people 'will never know most of their fellow-members . . . ,' yet in the mind of each member lives the image of their communion’” (2008, p. 582).
"Do to the current market situation, several gas stations ask their customers to pre-pay."

As the *Seattle Weekly* reports, "Do [sic] to the current market situation, several gas stations *ask* [emphasis added] their customers to pre-pay.

Scenario 1

Sarah and Beckie are working on their assignments together in the library. Beckie is struggling to find materials to read for her assignment, so Sarah gives her the reading list she has compiled and used for her essay.

**Is this plagiarism?**
Scenario 2

Jacob has to submit a drawing for his assessment portfolio. He is struggling to complete it, so his room mate Poppy offers to complete the drawing for him. It takes Poppy 5 minutes to finish the drawing and Jacob submits it as part of his portfolio.

Is this plagiarism?
Amir is working on a group project with 2 other people, Kat and Aaron. Aaron has cancelled their second meeting and Kat has not completed her section of work. The deadline is in two days, and Amir wants a good mark so he completes the project and puts Kat and Aaron’s name on it.

Is this plagiarism?
Scenario 4

Naomi is calculating her findings for her undergraduate dissertation. The results do not support the argument she has made in her literature review – but only just! Her brother Andrew, a postgraduate student, tells her to tweak the results. He says that he did it in his dissertation, as did some of his friends.

What should Naomi do?
Scenario 5

Matt is searching the web for an article to use in his essay. He finds a good paragraph and copies it into his essay to be paraphrased, but is distracted by a phone call. When he returns to his essay, Matt continues to write, but does not provide a reference for the article. When the work is returned, Matt’s lecturer states that he believes that Matt has plagiarised in his work.

What can Matt learn from this?
Plagiarism FAQs

Do I need to cite something if I have taken it from another essay I wrote?

Can I use a dictionary definition without referencing it?

Do I have to reference something that is common knowledge?

Should I study alone to avoid plagiarism?

What if I cite something incorrectly? Is this still regarded as plagiarism?

What if I can’t find the author for the work I’m using?

Can I use external agencies to correct my work?

I can use as much material from a text, as long as I cite it, right?
Support for Avoiding Plagiarism

- **Turnitin** - really good resources explaining a number of plagiarism avoidance techniques
- **Plagiarism.org** - really useful blog answering a number of student queries
- **APA Blog** – how to cite absolutely *anything* in the APA style
- **Marjon Guidance on APA** - this is the guidance you should follow!
- **APA Publication Manual** - available in the library
- **Purdue Writing Lab** – more APA guidance
- **Enago Academy** – perspective of researchers on avoiding plagiarism
- **Grammarly Blog** – interesting look at some of the forms of plagiarism

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