

Plagiarism

What It Is and How to Avoid It

If You...

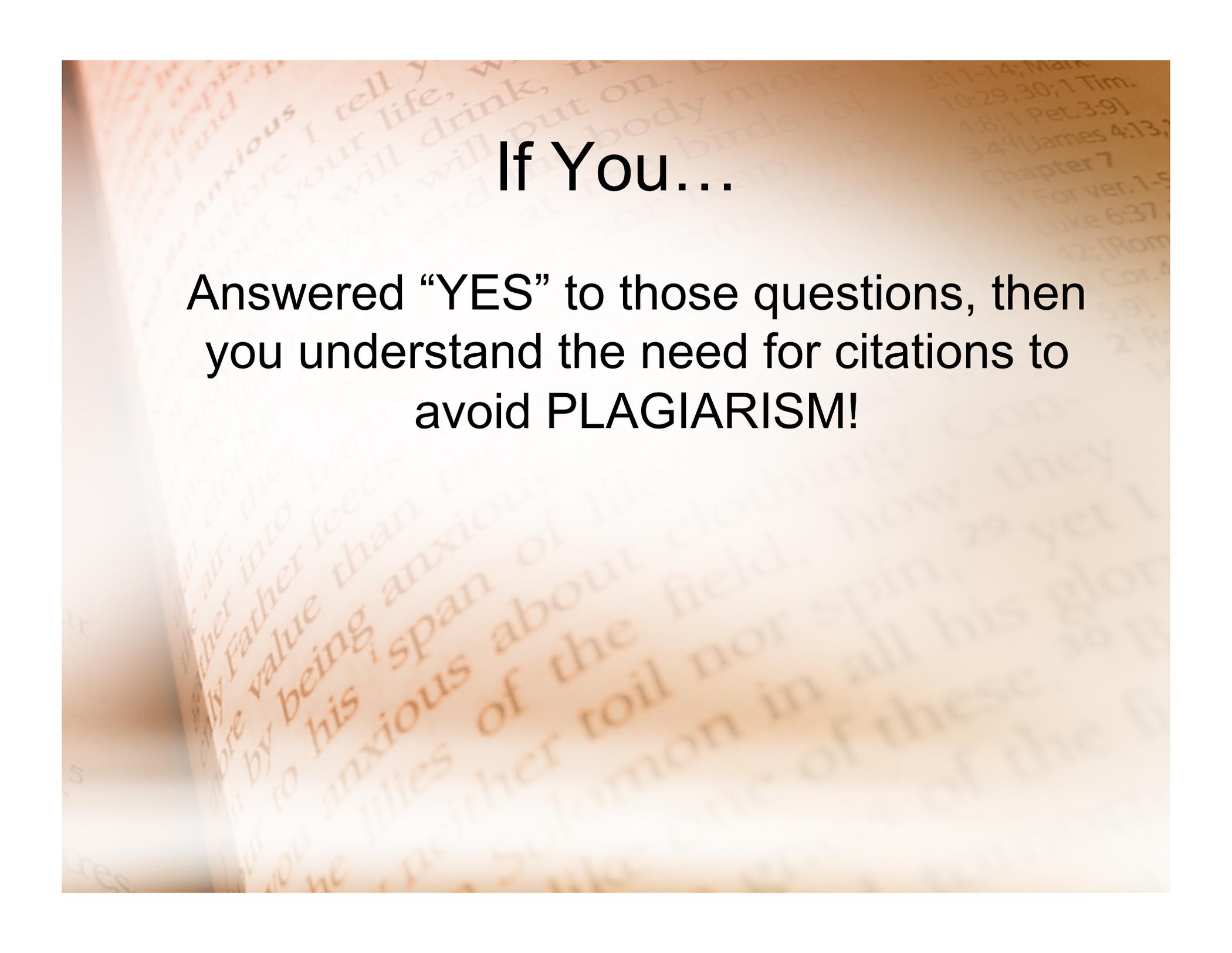
Created an invention that made millions of dollars, would you want to have it patented so that YOU were the one who received credit and money for your invention?

If You...

Directed a movie that not only made millions of dollars at the box office but also won an Oscar, wouldn't you want YOUR name in the credits so that YOU would receive the money, fame, and recognition?

If You...

Took weeks (or even years) to write and publish a book, play, poem, or essay, wouldn't you want YOUR name on it so that you would be recognized for your intelligence and hard work?



If You...

Answered "YES" to those questions, then
you understand the need for citations to
avoid PLAGIARISM!

“Intellectual Property”

- Basically, a person’s IDEAS and WORDS are “owned” by that person.
- Thus, written texts and the original ideas within them are considered to be “intellectual property”, according to Diana Hacker, author of *A Writer’s Reference*.

“Intellectual Property”

- If you use an author’s “property”, you must follow certain conventions.
- If you fail to do so, you STEAL someone else’s property.
- Doing so is not only an ethical offense, but also a LEGAL offense.

Definition of Plagiarism

“When you use another author’s intellectual property—language, visuals, or ideas—in your own writing without giving proper credit, you commit a kind of academic theft called *plagiarism*,” explains Hacker (347).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation

http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit (aka—changing a word or two)
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not

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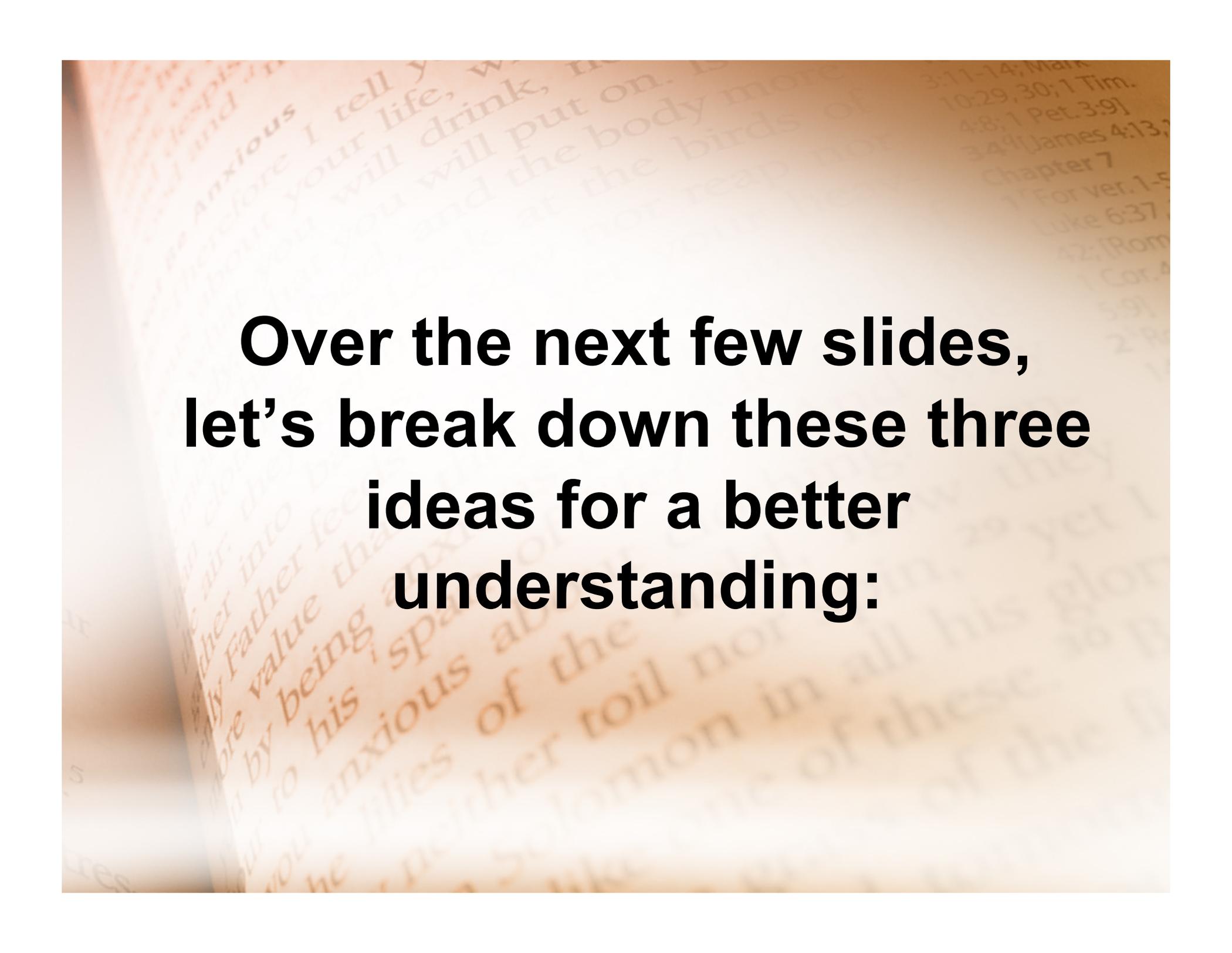
The Basics: What is citation?

- A "citation" is the way you tell readers that certain material in your work came from another source.
- It also gives your readers the information necessary to find that source again, including:
 - information about the author
 - the title of the work
 - the name and location of the company that published your copy of the source
 - the date your copy was published
 - the page numbers of the material you are borrowing

http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_citation.html

You Commit Plagiarism When...

- You fail to cite quotations and borrowed ideas
- You fail to use quotation marks (“ ”) around another author’s words, phrases, or sentences
- You fail to summarize or paraphrase in **YOUR OWN WORDS**



**Over the next few slides,
let's break down these three
ideas for a better
understanding:**

Citing Quotations and Borrowed Ideas

First, plagiarism is not just about stealing someone's words but also his IDEAS.

Citing Quotations and Borrowed Ideas

- For example, you may listen to an interview with Barack Obama and find that you want to use some of his IDEAS in a paper that you are writing.
- Obama's words were spoken and not written, yet you still must give him credit in your paper for using HIS IDEAS.

Citing Quotations and Borrowed Ideas

- If your paper is written in MLA (Modern Language Association), you should have:
 1. In-text citations (also called parenthetical documentation). You should include the author's name and page number.
 2. A works cited page (in alphabetical order) that gives publication information about a source.

Citing Quotations and Borrowed Ideas

**NO CITATIONS and/or
NO WORKS CITED PAGE
=
PLAGIARISM**

Using Quotation Marks

- If you “borrow” an author’s EXACT phrases or sentences, you MUST use quotations around the borrowed material.
- Even if you have cited the source, you still commit plagiarism if you don’t use quotations.
- See the next slides for examples.

Examples of Plagiarism

Original Wording: "Such 'story myths' are not told for their entertainment value. They provide answers to questions people ask about life, about society and about the world in which they live" (10).

Misuse of Source (1): Specifically, story myths are not for entertainment purposes rather they serve as answers to questions people ask about life, about society and about the world in which they live.

Comment:

The student copied words and phrases from the original without acknowledging their source. Although the student has rearranged some phrases and made minor stylistic changes, this version still follows the basic wording and structure of the original while the student repeats ideas as if they were his or her own.

http://depts.drew.edu/composition/Avoiding_Plagiarism.htm

Examples of Plagiarism

Original Wording: "Such 'story myths' are not told for their entertainment value. They provide answers to questions people ask about life, about society and about the world in which they live" (10).

Misuse of Source (2): Davidson explains that story myths answer questions people ask about life, about society and about the world that we live in (10).

Comment:

Less obviously, this example is also classified as plagiarism. Although the student cites the source of the ideas, he or she presents Davidson's exact words as if he or she authored them. As is often the case in such plagiarism, where the words are changed the changes render the material less clear (shifting from "people" to "we" for example).

http://depts.drew.edu/composition/Avoiding_Plagiarism.htm

More Examples

- For more examples of plagiarism, go to these websites:
- Drew University:
http://depts.drew.edu/composition/Avoiding_Plagiarism.htm
- OWL at Purdue:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/01/>

Summaries and Paraphrases

- When you **reduce** or condense information, you are **SUMMARIZING**.
- When you **repeat** information in **your own words** in about the same number of words as the author's, you are **PARAPHRASING**.

Summaries and Paraphrases

According to Hacker, “You commit plagiarism if you half-copy the author’s sentence—either by mixing the author’s phrases with your own without using quotation marks or by plugging your synonyms into the author’s sentence structure” (360).

Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism: Common Knowledge

- Since you don't have to cite **common knowledge**, many students make the mistake of unintentionally plagiarizing. So here's a tip:
- Look around your class. If you think that most (75% or more) does NOT know something, then cite your information!

Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism: Common Knowledge

- If you find information repeatedly in your research, it does not need to be cited.
 - For example, the fact that Emily Dickinson only published a handful of poems during her lifetime would not need to be cited.
 - However, the fact Dickinson wrote over 1500 poems in forty-three volumes would need to be cited such as the following:
 - Dickinson wrote over 1500 poems in and “tied them together into forty-three separate collections called ‘fascicles,’ which she placed into her bureau drawer for posterity to find” (Miller).

BUT WHEN IN DOUBT, ALWAYS CITE THE SOURCE!

Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism: 3 Word Rule

- **If you copy 3 or more words verbatim (word for word) from a source, you must use quotes around those words and immediately reference the source (use in-text citations) .**
- Every phrase, sentence, or paragraph that you copy from another source must be enclosed in quotations; then, you must immediately provide a source.

<http://www.d.umn.edu/~tpederse/Docs/A-Plagiarism-Case-Study.htm>

Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism: Paraphrasing and Summarizing

- When taking notes, follow these steps:
 - Read the information a couple of times.
 - Take notes in your OWN words WITHOUT LOOKING AT YOUR SOURCE.
 - If you want to quote an author, be sure to use quotation marks around an author's exact words.

Red Flag

- A major “red flag” that indicates plagiarism is the use of vocabulary not often used in your conversational, or everyday, language.
- Teachers can usually tell the difference between your own writing from another’s, so be sure to give credit to your source.

Quiz Yourself!

- The following are links to online quizzes that will rate your knowledge about plagiarism:
- [Quiz 1](#)
- [Quiz 2](#)
- [Quiz 3](#)

Helpful Links

- MLA Formatting and Style Guide from the OWL (Online Writing Lab) at Purdue:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>
- Anything you'll ever need to know about plagiarism is here:
http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/home.html
- “Avoiding Plagiarism” from Purdue’s OWL site:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

References

Hacker, Diana. A Writer's Reference. 6th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.

Miller, Ruth. "Emily (Elizabeth) Dickinson." The American Renaissance in New England: Fourth Series. Ed. Wesley T. Mott. Dictionary of Literary Biography Vol. 243. Detroit: Gale Group, 2001. Literature Resource Center. AVL. SHS Library, Harvest, AL. 31 Mar. 2009.

Pedersen, Ted. "A Plagiarism Case Study." University of Minnesota Duluth. 19 Apr. 2001. 31 Mar. 2009 <<http://www.d.umn.edu/~tpederse/Docs/A-Plagiarism-Case-Study.htm>>.

"Plagiarism—and How to Avoid It!" Drew University. 7 Apr. 2009 <http://depts.drew.edu/composition/Avoiding_Plagiarism.htm>.

"What is Plagiarism?" Plagiarism.org. 2009. 29 Mar. 2009 <http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html>.