

Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is an act of academic dishonesty, whereby an author's original ideas, interpretations, conclusion, or other observations are used without granting proper credit in the reference and text citation.

How many types of plagiarism are there?

- Copying: One of the most frequently occurring type of plagiarism, which involves borrowing words, phrases, paragraphs, and (in some cases) even the entire text from the source(s) in the paper without citing and/or quoting the original work(s).
- Paraphrasing: the technique involving the partial alteration of words and phrases in the source work(s) without citing the source.
- Forgotten footnotes and citations: although the sources are listed in the bibliography or reference list, the footnotes and in-text citations are omitted. (Plagiarism.org, 2004)
- Misinformation: the reference list or bibliography contains incorrect information, making it difficult or impossible to locate the source. (Plagiarism.org, 2004))
- Fabrication: the plagiarizer lists and cites fictitious sources to create the impression of a well-researched paper or speech.
- Misrepresentation: The type of plagiarism occurs when a student asks for assistance in proofreading and then submits the paper without changing the proofreader's words to his or her own. The paper was re-written and submitted with the proofreader's (e.g., a tutor's) choice of words, not that of the student's. (Lewis & Clark College, 2006)

How can students avoid plagiarism?

- Since plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional, the following recommendations are made:
 - Achieve as much originality in your paper by presenting your own ideas, experiences, insights, and conclusions;
 - Try to draft your paper without using your notes and sources you have found for your research paper;
 - Citing every source used in a research paper and including the sources in the reference list;
 - Using direct quotations and citing the sources;
 - Paraphrase material from the originals and cite the sources.

What are the consequences of plagiarism?

Since plagiarism is a violation of the academic honor code at most academic institutions, the consequences for students may include:

- failing grade for the assignment or project
- failing the entire course
- expulsion from Baker College

For detailed information for Baker College policies please see the [Academic Honor Code at Baker College](#)

References

Lewis and Clark College (2006). *Lewis and clark's tutorial on avoiding plagiarism*

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