

# Know How Research Skills: Plagiarism and Citing Sources Tutorial Transcript

## Introduction

**Slide 1:** Welcome to the Know How Research Skills tutorial on plagiarism and citing sources.

This tutorial will help you understand what plagiarism is, why it is bad, how it may be punished, and how to prevent it by citing sources.

There will be a short quiz that you must successfully complete to get credit for this tutorial. When you are done, you will be able to print out a certificate or email your professor that you have done this.

Your work will not be saved so you must complete this all at one time.

Let's begin!

## Part I

**Slide 1:** Part 1: What is plagiarism?

Austin Community College officially defines plagiarism as "taking another person's intellectual work and using it as one's own; for example, this includes quoting without giving proper credit to a source, expanding another person's work without giving credit to that person, or submitting another person's work under the pretense that it is one's own."

**Slide 2:** Most of us know that it is wrong to copy words from a book and use them as our own or to turn a paper that we did not write. But did you know that it is just as wrong to copy and paste information from a website? Or to put information from a book in your own words and not give credit to the person who wrote that book? It doesn't matter where the info came from. If you use it without giving credit, it's plagiarism.

**Slide 3:** Watch this short video from Rutgers University to get a better understanding of plagiarism. Our thanks to Rutgers University for giving us permission to use it.

## Part II

**Slide 1:** Part II: Why Plagiarism is wrong.

As you can see from the video, plagiarism can get you into trouble, but why is it considered such a serious offense?

**Slide 2:** The entire idea of education is for you to learn from others and then incorporate their stuff into your own thinking. If you just take other's ideas and words and pretend they are yours, you are cheating both other students who are creating original materials and yourself by not using your brain.

**Slide 3:** Accusations of plagiarism can be very serious and are not taken lightly at most academic institutions, including ACC.

The consequences can include a failing grade or at worst expulsion. Not to mention the damage to your reputation.

But plagiarism is not just something you have to worry about when you are in school. The real world is full of examples of people who have lost more than their reputation for plagiarism.

**Slide 4:** When it was discovered that then Harvard sophomore Kaavya Viswanathan plagiarized major portions of her novel *How Opal Metha Got Kissed, Got Wild and Got a Life* in 2006, she was forced to return half a million dollars to the publisher and she lost a lucrative movie deal.

**Slide 5:** In 2003, New York Times reporter Jason Blair was found to have plagiarized over three dozen stories. Not only was he fired, but two editors above him were forced to resign.

**Slide 6:** In 2007, Ohio University revoked a graduate's Masters degree due to plagiarism and investigated dozens more.

**Slide 7:** Plagiarism is cheating.

Plagiarism is lying.

Plagiarism can hurt the reputation of your school, your employer, and most important it can hurt you. So plagiarism is wrong, plain and simple. Don't do it.

### Part III

**Slide 1:** Citing Sources: How to avoid plagiarism.

This next video from Rutgers demonstrates how documenting your sources can prevent accusations of plagiarism.

**Slide 2:** This video showed how to avoid plagiarism by indicating in your work when you are using others' words or ideas. This is called citing sources or documentation.

**Slide 3:** As you saw in the video, a paper may be mostly your words or ideas, but if you use the words of others to support your ideas then you are using "direct quotes."

"To be or not to be," is a direct quote.

"Would you, could you eat green eggs and ham," is a direct quote.

You get the idea?

**Slide 4:** If you use the exact words from a book, a magazine article or a website, you must put those words in quotation marks and properly cite the information. This tells the reader that these are not your words but research you found to support your ideas.

**Slide 5:** A harder concept to grasp is paraphrasing. Sometimes you use information in your paper that you have found in a book or online but you don't use the exact words from the book or website. This is called paraphrasing because although you are not using the exact words of someone else, you are using their ideas and they deserve credit for this.

For example, here is a page from a book about the dangers of driving while talking on your cell phone. I could use this exact quote in a paper or a presentation, or, I could say that in ten states and the District of Columbia, texting with a cell phone is illegal.

See what I did? I gave more or less the same information but in my own words. I paraphrased the information, so I don't need quotation marks. But this is not information that I would have known if I not looked it up, and odds are most people don't know this fact either so I must cite this information in my paper.

**Slide 6:** But what about common knowledge? The sun rises in the morning, we all know this and we wouldn't be surprised if someone told us this fact. This is an example of common knowledge. Or, information that is so widely known and accepted as fact that it is not necessary to document the information.

**Slide 7:** But let's suppose you are writing a paper about Alaska and you want to include a paragraph about its months of light and darkness. You discover through your research that depending on how far north the location, certain parts of Alaska experience months of total sunlight or of total darkness. Now this may be common knowledge to some, like people who grew up in northern Alaska, but odds are there are a number of people who would be surprised to learn this fact, and they may want to consult an authoritative source like the Encyclopedia Americana (the source I used to find this information) to confirm that it is true.

So how do you know when it's common knowledge and when it's not? It's always better to be safe than sorry. If you didn't know it before you researched it, then I would cite it. Or you could ask your instructor or a librarian for advice on specific situations.

**Slide 8:** The number one reason to document your work is to avoid accusations of plagiarism. Without the proper documentation, your instructor will assume that you were intentionally trying to pass work off as your own that you did not write. So don't get lazy when it comes to those citations, they are an important part of the paper.

**Slide 9:** There are several styles of documentation with their own rules and formatting, but they all share the same purpose of formally indicating in your paper or speech that an outside source has been used.

Details about the source being used are given in the paper, at the end of the paper or in a bibliography or works cited.

The most common styles are MLA, APA, Turabian, and CSE. The ACC library has paper handouts and online web pages with explanations and examples for all of these documentation styles.

**Slide 10:** Watch this short video that will lead to your final quiz.

## **Conclusion**

**Slide 1:** Congratulations! You have completed the tutorial on plagiarism and citing sources!

**Slide2:** To print or email your instructor a copy of your certificate of completion, please follow the instructions on the screen. Remember, your work will not be saved so you must obtain a copy of this certificate before you exit the tutorial.

If you still have questions or need any assistance, ask a librarian in person at any campus library or email, call or chat. To find out how to contact us, visit our web page at <http://library.austincc.edu>.