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What Is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is:

- Claiming someone else's work as your own, ie. cheating and stealing.
- This includes turning in another student's work, using words or ideas from a source without appropriate citation and/or quotation marks, or even borrowing a source's sentence structure while changing individual words.
- Plagiarism is not only wrong, but also can cause you to fail class, or be expelled from the school.

According to the Northwestern College Student Handbook:

- "Copying another student's work or assisting another student in copying or cheating is academically dishonest and considered misconduct. Plagiarism is considered an act of academic misconduct." (p. 27, sec. 2: para. 22)

To avoid plagiarism:

- Whenever you paraphrase, summarize, or take words, phrases, or sentences from another's work, you must indicate the source of the information within your paper using an internal citation called a 'parenthetical citation.' Each citation is then listed alphabetically at the end of your paper in a 'Works Cited' list.
- Always give credit to the author!
- Don't take credit for others' ideas or words.
- Don't submit the same work for two assignments without permission (self-plagiarism)

For more information and tips for avoiding plagiarism, try these resources:

- Website: Plagiarism.org
- Tutorial: [Avoiding Plagiarism](#)
- Tutorial: [Plagiarism Tutorial](#)
- Book: *What every student should know about avoiding plagiarism* (808 STERN)
- Book: *Don't steal copyrighted stuff! : avoiding plagiarism and illegal Internet downloading* (808 GAINES)
- Book: *Doing honest work in college : how to prepare citations, avoid plagiarism, and achieve real academic success* (808.027 LIPSON)
- Book: *Plagiarism: a how-not-to guide for students* (371.58 GILMORE)