



Brief Guide to Plagiarism

According to the University of Fairfax Academic Integrity Policy, plagiarism is defined as “the use of someone else’s words or ideas without proper credit: and recognize several types of plagiarism, such as:

- Quoting directly without acknowledging the source;
- Paraphrasing without acknowledging the source;
- Constructing a paraphrase that closely resembles the original in language and syntax without acknowledging the source.

Please refer to the Catalog and Student Handbook for more information about Academic Integrity and the enforcement of this policy.

University of Fairfax Catalog and Student Handbook, page 23

<https://www.ufairfax.edu/documents/student-handbook.pdf>

There are different types of plagiarism, a few of them are listed below:

- *Direct Plagiarism*: When you copy another person’s work, word-for-word, without citing it. Also submitting a paper that someone else wrote and pass it off as your own. You are essentially presenting that information in a way that says you came up with it, it is a deliberate attempt at plagiarism.
- *Accidental or Unintentional Plagiarism*: This happens when a person misquotes, paraphrases or fails to cite their sources. (Most instructors will have no idea that you plagiarized unintentionally it will be considered plagiarism).
- *Self-Plagiarism*: (Yes, you can even plagiarize yourself). This is when you use a paper/assignment that was used for another and decide to use the paper/assignment to supplement a different course with a similar assignment. If you feel that you should be able to use an assignment you did for another class, you would need to contact your instructor for permission to do so. However, if you are using a quote or paraphrasing from your assignment for another, you will need to cite yourself.

When should you give credit? (These are just a few examples).

- Using a direct quote or copying something word for word.
- Paraphrase an article or some ones idea.
- Using a picture, graph, video, or any type of media.
- Information that is not common knowledge.

Common Knowledge: You do not need to cite common knowledge. Common knowledge is something that the readers should general know, such as who is the current President of the United States is.

When in doubt, cite!

(Or ask for help from your Librarian via chat or email: askus@an.libanswers.com)



However, plagiarism is not always black and white and there are some gray areas. [The Owl at Purdue](#) has a great section on plagiarism.

If you want more information about plagiarism and citing sources, visit: [The Writing Center](#)