



Plagiarism

Academic Integrity

- Academic integrity means acting with the values of **honesty, trust, fairness, respect** and **responsibility** in learning, teaching and research.
- It is important for students, teachers, researchers and all staff to act in an honest way, be responsible for their actions, and show fairness in every part of their work.

(Bretag, 2012)

What does plagiarism mean?

Plagiarism means ...

- 'Plagiarism, in basic terms, is presenting the work or ideas of another as one's own, without acknowledging one's sources.' (London Metropolitan University, 2017).
- Plagiarism is theft – 'if you do not provide your sources when you write you are in effect [stealing] someone else's work and passing it off as your own.'
- 'Plagiarism is a major academic offence for which you can fail a module, be suspended from University or even have your whole degree annulled.' (Burns and Sinfield, 2012: 150)
- Students often accidentally 'stumble' into Plagiarism.

(Burns and Sinfield, 2012: 236)

So what?

- Whilst reading for your degree you are 'acquiring ideas, arguments and evidence from other people.'
- You are expected to read to 'gain an understanding of the guiding principles of your discipline and knowledge of the key ideas, concepts and theories' relating to your chosen degree subject.
- 'you are not supposed to be making it up as you go along ...'
- '... you are not expected to have all the ideas and answers before you [begin] ...'

(Burns and Sinfield, 2012: 236 - 237)

So what?

- '...academic integrity' is therefore very important.
- It is essential that students 'acknowledge' their sources and 'credit the work of other people.' (Burns and Sinfield, 2012: 236 - 237)
- You do this by recording references (citations) in your assignment and including a full reference list at the end of the assignment.

(Burns and Sinfield, 2012)

Student Views on Plagiarism

- Listen to the comments of students about plagiarism from the link below.
- <http://learning.londonmet.ac.uk/TLTC/learnhigher/Plagiarism/jukebox/jukebox.html>
- Other examples available on page 238 of Burns and Sinfield, (2012)

Why do students plagiarise?

- **Intentional plagiarism**
- UK survey (JISCPAS, June 2004) - quarter of students have plagiarised (9% once, 16% more often)
- **The main reasons:**
- too much pressure (time/workload)
- easier to plagiarise than do the work

(London Metropolitan University, 2017).

Why do students plagiarise?

- **Other factors identified in the plagiarism literature**
- overassessment
- poor time management; laziness
- pressures to succeed; fear of failure
- lack of language proficiency
- temptation due to internet (but few use essay services)
- belief that will not be caught, perception that offence/consequences not serious
- indifference to the course or topic (unmotivated)

(JISCPAS, 2004 cited in London Metropolitan University, 2017).

Why do students plagiarise?

- **Unintentional plagiarism**
- poor understanding/ignorance of referencing and plagiarism
- "surface" conceptions of learning as reproduction of knowledge
- failure to understand role of academic tasks in preparing them for future professional work
- carelessness (in note taking)
- prior education (schooling does not address attribution)
- cultural background
- working in a "second" language ("ventriloquising")

(London Metropolitan University, 2017).

How can you avoid plagiarism?

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you:

- quote from someone's actual spoken or written words.
- use another person's ideas, opinions, or theories in an assignment or essay.
- make use of pieces of information, such as statistics, graphs, drawings, that are not common knowledge.
- paraphrase another person's spoken or written words.

(University of Queensland, 2020)

How can you avoid plagiarism?

- Use quotation marks around everything that comes directly from a text or article.
- Try to summarise ideas and arguments in your own words - don't just rearrange a few words here and there.
- Check that you have correctly paraphrased and acknowledged the original ideas.
- Check your summary against the original text.

(University of Queensland, 2020)

Tips for Preventing Plagiarism

- Make notes of your reference information as you go along, whilst you are reading.
- Reference your assignments following appropriate university guidelines relevant to your subject area.
- Avoid copying large sections of information.
- Learn how to paraphrase and synthesise.
- Submit your draft and final assignment through the Turnitin links included within each module on Moodle.
- Look at your originality score – does it need to be reduced before final submission?

Preventing Plagiarism Course

- To learn more about Plagiarism take the Preventing Plagiarism course recommended by Sage in Burns and Sinfield, (2012) available at the link below.
- <http://learning.londonmet.ac.uk/TLTC/learnhigher/Plagiarism/>

References

- Burns, T. and Sinfield, S. (2012) *Essential Study Skills: The complete Guide to Success at University*. 3rd Edition. London: Sage.
- London Metropolitan University (2017) *Preventing Plagiarism*. [Online] Available at: <http://learning.londonmet.ac.uk/TLTC/connorj/plagiarism/Staff/> (Accessed 26th July 2017).
- University of Queensland (2020) *Academic Integrity: Referencing and Plagiarism*. Available at: <https://sites.google.com/site/academicintegrityresources/home> (Accessed 1st July 2020)