Where do you draw the line?

In the examples below, number 1 is plagiarism and number 6 is not. Somewhere you can draw a line between the numbered examples which are plagiarism and those which are not. Have a go at it – draw the line under the last example *you* think is plagiarism.

1 Copying a paragraph verbatim from a source without any acknowledgement or reference.

2 Copying a paragraph and making small changes – e.g. replacing a few verbs, replacing an adjective with a synonym and including the source in the list of references on the last page of your essay.

3 Cutting and pasting a paragraph by using sentences of the original but omitting one or two and putting one or two in a different order, no quotation marks; in-text acknowledgement e.g. (Jones, 1999) plus inclusion in the reference list.

4 Composing a paragraph by taking short phrases of 10 to 15 words from a number of sources and putting them together, adding words of your own to make a coherent whole; all sources included in the reference list.

5 Paraphrasing a paragraph with substantial changes in language and organisation; the new version will also have changes in the amount of detail used and the examples cited; in-text acknowledgement e.g. (Jones, 1999) and inclusion in the reference list.

6 Quoting a paragraph by placing it in block format with the source cited in text and list of references.

Based on *An Exercise in Academic Writing for Graduate Students* by John M. Swales and Christine B. Freak, University of Michigan (1994)