

Plagiarism

Indian River State College

Department of Libraries

Plagiarism is considered an act of misconduct at Indian River State College for which students are subject to discipline. If the act of plagiarism involves more than one student, any of the students involved may be disciplined. Consult IRSC Board Policy Number 6Hx11-7.24 Student Standards of Conduct.

Plagiarism involves the inappropriate use of another person's creation, especially when academic credit is awarded. Examples include an individual's words, images, music, ideas, and more. See also <http://www.irsc.edu/libraries/tutorials/tutorials.aspx?id=1242>.

Most plagiarism involves written papers; however, it can also be applied to presentations, lab reports, musical scores, computer codes, and other academic assignments. This guide will mention papers more often than other assignment types, but the act of plagiarism remains the same for other assignment types.

Students are required to give credit or cite the sources they utilize for the aforementioned assignments. Sources include books, articles, web sites, interviews, illustrations and images, art, conversations and email, class lectures, class notes, student papers, student assignments, etc.

Why do you need to cite or give credit to your source?

- You need to recognize the original creator and the work.
- You must provide your readers with the information needed to retrieve the source for their use.

The *American Psychological Association Publication Manual* and the *Modern Language Association Handbook* are commonly used style guides that provide writing and citing advice. Indian River State College faculty usually requires the use of the APA or the MLA style. These guides are available in the College's Libraries and Academic Support Centers. Library faculty will also assist students in understanding these styles. See also: <http://irsc.libguides.com/index.php>.

Take the **Plagiarism Quiz** at <http://www.irsc.edu/libraries/tutorials/tutorials.aspx?id=1242>.

Examples of Plagiarism

Borrowing a Friend's Paper

Students sometimes share papers with one another, especially if they have the same instructor or course. You cannot put your name on your friend's paper and submit the work as your own. In essence, you have stolen the work of another author. Students are the authors of their own papers, assignments, email, etc. If you use any of your friend's paper for content; however, you need to cite those portions you use. This practice is not recommended.

Buying a Paper

Students occasionally buy papers from other students or from an online service. You cannot put your name on a paper you purchased and submit it as your own. In essence, you have stolen the work of another author.

Citing without Quotation Marks

Students occasionally extract sections of text written by an author for use in their papers. While they give credit to the author, they do not always attribute these sentences to the author through the use of quotation marks. You need to use quotation marks to separate the author's words from your own words to avoid an act of plagiarism.

Common Facts

Commonly known facts can be found in numerous resources. You do not need to cite commonly known facts. If you do not know whether the information is common knowledge, play it safe and cite it.

Copying and Pasting (also known as Cutting and Pasting)

Often times, a student will "copy" information from the Internet, from another student's paper, from an email, or from another online source and "paste" it into his/her paper. You need to cite any works that you "copy and

paste” when you are not the author of the original source. If you need assistance locating the author and source, ask a librarian or your instructor. Additionally, if you “copy and paste” directly, you need to use quotation marks to denote the author’s exact words.

Editor

A student will occasionally pay an editor to review his/her research paper. Some editors may identify a student’s errors, but other editors may identify and correct a student’s errors. If an editor makes changes to your work, you have in essence committed an act of plagiarism.

Email

Students or professors may send email which interprets course related material, such as a passage in a novel, a paragraph in an article, or a segment from a DVD. You need to cite email that you have received or that you have not written on your own.

Ideas

Students sometimes use ideas that originated with another person and they fail to cite the original source. You need to cite any ideas that did not originate with you.

Images, Tables, Graphs, and Illustrations

Students often use images in class speeches, PowerPoint presentations, papers, etc. You need to cite any images that you utilize that you have not created on your own.

Interviews

Students are often able to use oral or written interviews. They may interview classmates, professors, professionals, and family members. Oral interviews may take place in person, via the phone, via Skype, etc. Written interviews may take place online or in another written format. You need to cite oral or written responses that you either paraphrase or directly quote. Additionally, you need to use quotation marks to denote the interviewee’s exact words.

Paraphrasing

When a student paraphrases work attributed to someone else, he/she is interpreting the information and expressing the author’s ideas in his/her own words. You need to cite any works that you paraphrase. You are not the author of the original source. You cannot claim the author’s ideas as your own.

Public Domain

Students often use books, lyrics, images, and other sources that are in the public domain. Public domain means that the items were never copyright protected or that the copyright protection has expired. You should cite works in the public domain that you paraphrase or quote. You are not the author of the original source. You cannot claim the author’s ideas as your own. Additionally, you need to use quotation marks to denote the author’s exact words.

Quoting (Direct Quotes)

Students often quote an author’s work verbatim (word for word) or with a word change here and there. You need to cite any works that you quote. Additionally, you need to use quotation marks to denote the author’s exact words. A word change here and there still constitutes the need to cite and quote the original source.

Reusing Papers or Assignments

Students will sometimes re-use papers or projects that they have completed for other courses. You cannot re-use your work in lieu of a new assignment. You can quote an occasional section from one of your previously submitted/graded assignments; however, you must cite it.

Song Lyrics

Students sometimes cite song lyrics in their assignments. You need to cite any song lyrics that you include. Additionally, you need to set these lyrics apart with quotation marks to denote the artist’s exact words.