

# Rutgers Learning Centers

At Camden Campus

## WRITING: PLAGIARISM

**Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas as your own.**

### You have plagiarized when:

- You copy sentences, phrases, or key words without citing the source, and without placing the copied material in quotations.
- You have summarized the main points and supporting details of someone else's argument in your own words, but have not cited the source for your ideas.
- You have paraphrased someone else's sentences or sentence patterns, and have not cited the source.
- You have altered someone else's material by eliminating some of their words, or by adding some of your words.
- You have not used ellipses ( . . . ) to show elimination of words, nor used brackets [ ] for additions you have made to the text.
- You have borrowed someone else's ideas, evaluations, or arguments without acknowledging the source.
- You have failed to acknowledge all your sources either in the body of your paper or in your bibliography.

### You can avoid plagiarism by:

- Citing the source for your ideas, your quotations, your summaries and your paraphrasing.
- Remembering that research is a method for documenting available materials. Your research is evaluated on your ability to choose "appropriate sources."
- Recalling that information is not considered "common knowledge" unless the information can be found in at least fifteen sources.
- Knowing that you don't need to quote or cite well-known events, dates, and information that can be found in reference books, but that information that analyzes those same events or that offers an opinion does need a quote or citation.
- Citing or quoting when you're unsure if it's necessary. It's always better to give credit than to run the risk of plagiarism.

For more information, visit or call your nearest Rutgers Learning Center, or visit our website:<http://rlc.rutgers.edu>

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