



Avoiding Plagiarism



**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
EASTERN SHORE**

Agenda



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- ❖ Defining plagiarism
- ❖ Examples of plagiarism
- ❖ Accidental plagiarism
- ❖ Style guides
- ❖ Avoiding plagiarism
- ❖ Citation review
- ❖ Resources for avoiding plagiarism

Coming Up



- ❖ Our next drop-in writing group meeting is on **Saturday, November 8th from 9 am-noon** in the School of Graduate Studies suite in EASC room 3046. Snacks and drinks will be provided.
- ❖ Keep an eye out for upcoming workshops. Our next workshop is virtual and is on **Wednesday, November 12th at 6 pm**. The topic is strategies for writing a literature review.
- ❖ I'm always looking for participants for my and Dr. Elangwe's study UMES' GWC. If you are interested, please scan the QR code.



Preface



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- ❖ General overview of plagiarism/avoiding plagiarism
- ❖ Plagiarism and its consequences are best handled on a case-by-case basis
- ❖ Style guides influence rules on plagiarism; these guides change
- ❖ We're here to learn, not to be frightened or made anxious

Plagiarism



- ❖ The American Psychological Association (APA) defines plagiarism as,
“The act of presenting the words, ideas, or images of another as one’s own: it denies authors credit where credit is due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship and has profound real-world effects” (p. 21).
- ❖ Always cite outside information (sources)
 - ❑ Direct quotes/quoted material
 - ❑ Ideas taken from another source and paraphrased (put into your own words without changing the meaning of the idea)
 - ❑ Data/data sets
 - ❑ Reprinted and/or adapted materials, such as figures and tables
- ❖ The campus policy on academic honesty, covering cheating, falsification and plagiarism [Catalog | University of Maryland Eastern Shore](#); [Procedure for review of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty](#) governs:
 - ❑ Theses, dissertations, research projects, seminar, and research action papers, etc.
 - ❑ Oral defenses of scholarly products.

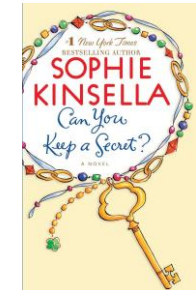
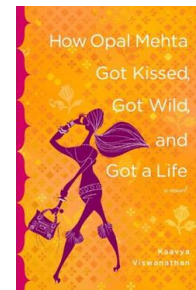
Real-world Examples of Plagiarism: Literature



When a Harvard student plagiarized chick-lit:

In 2006, a Harvard undergrad named Kaavya Viswanathan published her first novel, *How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life*. Soon thereafter, her university's own newspaper reported that the book featured “several passages that are strikingly similar to two books by Megan F. McCafferty—the 2001 novel *Sloppy Firsts* and the 2003 novel *Second Helpings*.” Like Epstein, Viswanathan said the similarities were unintentional, but the extent of the overlap seemed to belie that argument—and later, further similarities were found with Sophie Kinsella’s *Can You Keep a Secret?*. Those weren’t the last—accusers also noted parallel passages or sentences in works by Salman Rushdie and Meg Cabot. *How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life* was pulled from bookstores, and Viswanathan’s deal for a second novel was canceled.

<https://lithub.com/12-literary-plagiarism-scandals-ranked/>



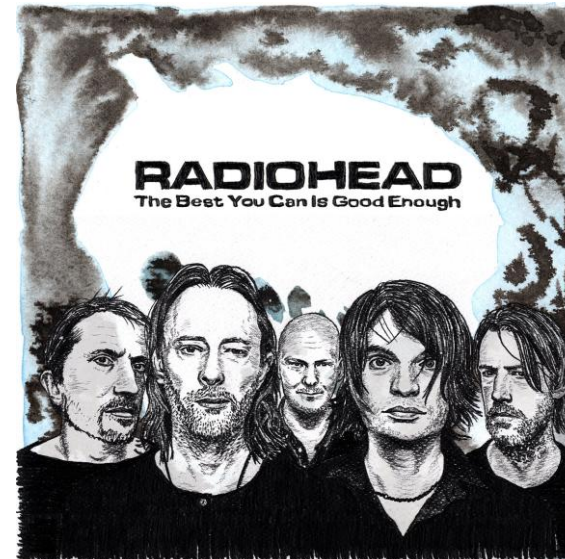
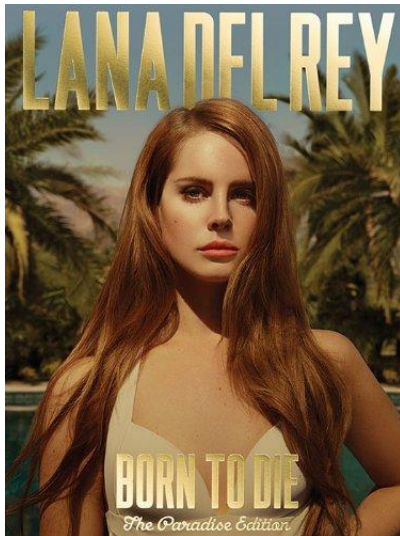
Real-world Examples of Plagiarism: Music



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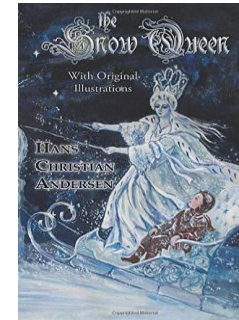
<https://www.radiox.co.uk/features/x-lists/most-famous-accusations-of-musical-plagiarism/>

- Lana del Rey's "Get Free" vs Radiohead's "Creep"



Real-world Examples of Plagiarism: Movies

- ❖ “Frozen” (2013)
- ❖ While “Frozen” takes much of its plot, theme, and character points from a story called “The Snow Queen,” it also appears to bear resemblance to Kelly Wilson’s animated short, “The Snowman.” In fact, even the trailer for “Frozen” seemed to share several similarities with Wilson’s film. Both center on a snowman that loses his nose and gets mixed up in other wacky shenanigans. On two occasions, Disney tried to have the lawsuit brought against them thrown out, but Wilson wouldn’t let it go. Thus, Disney decided to settle out of court.
- ❖ <https://www.watchmojo.com/articles/top-10-movies-accused-of-plagiarism/zootopia-2016>



Examples of Plagiarism



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- Turning in someone else's work as your own.
- Copying large pieces of text from a source without citing that source.
- Taking passages from multiple sources, piecing them together, and turning in the work as your own.
- Copying from a source but changing a few words and phrases to disguise plagiarism.
- Paraphrasing from a number of different sources without citing those sources.
- Turning in work that you did for another class without getting your professor's permission first.
- Buying an essay or paper and turning it in as your own work.

Accidental/Unintentional Plagiarism



It is possible to cite sources but still plagiarize. Here are some examples:

- Mentioning an author or source within your paper without including a full citation in your references/bibliography.
- Citing a source with inaccurate information, making it impossible to find that source.
- Using a direct quote from a source, citing that source, but failing to put quotation marks around the copied text.
- Paraphrasing from multiple cited sources without including any original work.
- Patchwriting (like paraphrasing, but still using the majority of a source's words without quoting them)

When Should a Source Be Cited?



Needs to be credited or documented

- Words or ideas presented in a magazine, book, journal, newspaper, song, TV program, movie, website, computer program, letter, advertisement, or any other medium
- Information you gain through interviewing or conversing with another person, face to face, over the phone, or in writing
- When you copy the exact words or a unique phrase
- When you reprint any diagrams, illustrations, charts, pictures, or other visual materials
- When you reuse or repost any digital media, including images, audio, video, or other media

Does NOT need documentation or credit

- Writing your own lived experiences, your own observations and insights, your own thoughts, and your own conclusions about a subject
- When you are writing up your own results obtained through lab or field experiments
- When you use your own artwork, digital photographs, video, audio, etc.
- When you are using "common knowledge," things like folklore, common sense observations, myths, urban legends, and historical events (but **not** historical documents)
- When you are using generally accepted facts (e.g., pollution is bad for the environment) including facts that are accepted within particular discourse communities (e.g., in the field of composition studies, "writing is a process" is a generally accepted fact).

Drilling Down on Citations



- ❖ **Quotations** must be identical to the original, using a narrow segment of the source. They must match the source document word for word and must be attributed to the original author.
Ex: When discussing pet ownership, Sedaris (2007) writes, “I’ve often heard that anthropomorphizing an animal is the worst injustice you can do it. That said, I’m guilty of it as anyone” (p. 3).
- ❖ **Paraphrasing** involves putting a passage from source material into your own words. A paraphrase must also be attributed to the original source. Paraphrased material is usually shorter than the original passage, taking a somewhat broader segment of the source and condensing it slightly.
Ex: While it’s been suggested that one should not attribute human characteristics and qualities to animals, this can be challenging, especially for those who are pet owners (Sedaris, 2007).
- ❖ **Summarizing** involves putting the main idea(s) into your own words, including only the main point(s). Once again, it is necessary to attribute summarized ideas to the original source. Summaries are significantly shorter than the original and take a broad overview of the source material.
Ex: Although it may be tempting to engage in anthropomorphizing animals, one should refrain from doing so (Sedaris, 2007).

Avoiding Plagiarism

- ❖ Keep track of your sources (use a citation management tool like RefWorks, Zotero, Mendeley, EndNote, etc.)
- ❖ Keep your sources in the correct context (understand what you're reading and cite accurately)
- ❖ Plan ahead (gathering literature and writing takes time)
- ❖ Don't cut and paste—file and label sources
- ❖ Keep your own writing and your sources separate
- ❖ Keep your notes and your drafts separate
- ❖ Paraphrase carefully and acknowledge your sources explicitly when paraphrasing
- ❖ Avoid reading a classmate's paper for inspiration
- ❖ Don't save your citations for later
- ❖ Quote your sources properly
- ❖ Keep a source trail/audit trail
- ❖ Beware of citation generators
- ❖ [How to Avoid Plagiarism | Harvard Guide to Using Sources](#)

Consequences of Plagiarism



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- ❖ Financial loss (employability/product-related/scholarships)
- ❖ Loss of credibility
- ❖ Reputation suffers
- ❖ Failure of course
- ❖ Suspension of academic studies/asked to leave program/university

What are Style Guides and Why Should They be Used?



“Style guides are used as a way of making common elements consistent across documents written by many writers, in many places, and in many circumstances; as a result, readers from any university (or other audience groups) can read a paper written in [MLA] style and know immediately how to navigate the [...] paper, how quotes will be introduced and marked, where to look for important citation information, and what each citation element represents” (Purdue OWL, 2022).

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html

- ❖ APA
- ❖ MLA
- ❖ CMOS
- ❖ Chicago/Turabian
- ❖ ACS

Citations and References

Follow the citation
and reference format
dictated by your
program

American
Psychological
Association

Publishing on
ProQuest

APA common
in social
sciences.



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



References



- References: Contains all the sources cited in the body of the document.
 - ❖ Consult your style manual for citation guidance
 - ❖ Beware of citation generators—they often give you incorrect citations.

Resources for Understanding Plagiarism



- ❖ Information on identifying and avoiding plagiarism can be found here:
 - ❖ <https://resources.library.lemoyne.edu/guides/academicintegrity/example-plagiarism#:~:text=Here%20are%20some%20examples%20of,the%20work%20as%20your%20own.>
 - ❖ https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/avoiding_plagiarism/index.html
 - ❖ <https://apastyle.apa.org/products/publication-manual-7th-edition>
 - ❖ <https://apastyle.apa.org/instructional-aids/avoiding-plagiarism.pdf>
 - ❖ [How to Avoid Plagiarism | Harvard Guide to Using Sources](#)
 - ❖ [Avoiding Plagiarism | Ways to Avoid Plagiarism | Excelsior OWL](#)

Questions?



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Contact Information



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- ❑ Graduate Writing Center:
<https://wwwcp.umes.edu/grad/graduate-writing-center/>
- ❑ WCOnline: <https://umes.mywconline.net/>
- ❑ School of Graduate Studies: <https://wwwcp.umes.edu/grad/>
- ❑ Dr. Kelsie Endicott: kjendicott@umes.edu; (410)-651-2971