

PLAGIARISM 101

When writing or creating presentations, it is important to give credit where it's due. This means that when you pull information from a source, you must cite it. Fundamentally, plagiarism—which can occur both intentionally and accidentally—occurs when appropriate credit isn't given (or isn't given correctly) to sources. To avoid plagiarism, consider the following:

Types of Plagiarism:

- **Direct Plagiarism**
 - Copying word-for-word from an outside source or quotation.
- **Mosaic Plagiarism**
 - Interweaving one's own words with those of an outside source in an effort to camouflage "stolen" info and pass it off as completely original work.
- **Paraphrase Plagiarism**
 - Changing only a few words here and there, but maintaining virtually the same words and ideas in the original source without using quotations (even if source is cited).
 - Putting the ideas of another in your own words, without citing source.
- **Insufficient Acknowledgment**
 - Citing a source only once although it is used more than once.
 - Improperly citing a source, such as quoting with no parenthetical or in text citation.

When Do I Cite?

- You should always cite material that you obtained from a source.
- Whether you are using quotations taken directly from the source, paraphrasing, or summarizing, you must cite.
- Common knowledge does not have to be cited. If you are unsure, ask your professor.
- A good rule of thumb is to over-cite, rather than under-cite.

Some Tips:

- Always check your citations against the official style guide!
 - Sometimes generated citations are incorrect.
- Ask for help—your professor, the Writing Tutors, and the librarians are all here to guide you!
- Give yourself plenty of time when you're working on projects, papers, or reports.
- Make note of citations as you write.
- For an in-depth look into plagiarism, visit:
 - Understanding & preventing plagiarism: Strategies & resources for students and teachers (n.d.). *Accredited Schools Online*. Retrieved from <https://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/preventing-plagiarism/>

What Resources Are Available?

- **The Student Success Center**
 - Writing Tutoring is offered both in-person and online.
- **The UAH Salmon Library**
 - The librarians are happy to help you find sources and can also help you use the library's website to cite those sources.
- **Purdue OWL**
 - Purdue's Online Writing Lab offers insight into common writing practices, grammar, and style guides.

