



Understanding Plagiarism

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, Writing Tutors, and 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.

What Resources Are Available?

- [Student Success Center](#) - Writing Tutoring is offered both in-person and online.
- [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.
- [Accredited Schools Online](#) - This online resource provides an in-depth look at understanding and preventing plagiarism.

For more information on plagiarism, make an appointment with a [writing tutor](#). Appointments are available in person at the [Student Success Center](#) or online.