

## Department of English Literature and Linguistics

### What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is intellectual theft. Many people think of plagiarism as simply copying another's work or borrowing their ideas, but plagiarism is an act of academic fraud with serious consequences. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward by claiming the work as one's own.

According to the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, to plagiarize means:

- to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as your own
- to use another's work without crediting the source
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

All of the following constitute plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving false information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit

Avoid plagiarism by:

- citing sources
- acknowledging which ideas you have borrowed

If you plagiarize you may:

- fail the course in which you plagiarized
- be referred to the department's Academic Honesty Board
- be put on academic probation for one year
- risk a hearing with the university ethics committee and expulsion