Plagiarism: The Prevention Workshop
What is plagiarism?

Merriam–Webster defines “plagiarism” in two ways:

1) to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source; and

2) to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

Sometimes, plagiarism is accidental or a result of laziness and not necessarily an intentional act. Either way, plagiarism carries with it stiff penalties. Your instructor is trained to recognize and find plagiarism and is bound to report it, so don’t think it is okay to occasionally let it slide.
And what are the consequences?

An excerpt from the Academic and Classroom Misconduct section of the Motlow State Community College Catalog:

“Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a zero for the exercise or examination or to assign an “F” in the course.”
Types of Plagiarism

1. Direct
2. Paraphrase
3. Mosaic
4. Insufficient Acknowledgement
How do we avoid plagiarism?

To avoid intentional plagiarism:

• Don’t procrastinate!
• Meet with your instructor!
• Get help from a Writing Center tutor!

To avoid unintentional plagiarism:

• Take careful notes as you conduct research. Keep track of what information came from which source.
• Paraphrase adequately.
• Cite your sources!
• Get help from a Writing Center tutor.
What is Paraphrasing?

• Paraphrasing is restating someone else’s idea in your own words

  – To properly paraphrase, you must significantly change the wording, phrasing, and sentence structure of the source. (Don’t just plug in synonyms!)

  – Follow your paraphrase with an in-text citation and cite the source on your “Works Cited” page (MLA format) or “References” page (APA format).
“ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances... Autism appears to have its roots in very early brain development. However, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge between 2 and 3 years of age. Autism Speaks continues to fund research on effective methods for earlier diagnosis, as early intervention with proven behavioral therapies can improve outcomes. Increasing autism awareness is a key aspect of this work and one in which our families and volunteers play an invaluable role” (“What is Autism?”).
How Did You Do?

An acceptable paraphrase:

According to their website, the group Autism Speaks is devoted to funding research that will allow for earlier recognition of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) symptoms in children (“What is Autism?”). This makes sense, as ASD is associated with early brain development and the symptoms most commonly manifest when children are toddlers between the ages of 2 and 3 (“What is Autism?”). The group is also dedicated to this research because earlier identification the intellectual, motor, or physical symptoms of ASD can mean earlier intervention with tested therapies and a greater chance of improved outcomes (“What is Autism?”).

Autism Spectrum Disorder can be associated with learning issues and difficulties with physical health. The disorder seems to have its beginnings in early brain development, but the most obvious signs and symptoms manifest between 2 and 3 years of age. The organization Autism Speaks continuously funds research to find better methods for earlier diagnosis, as earlier intercession with behavior therapy can improve results. Increasing awareness is an important part of this work and one in which family members and volunteer staff play an incredibly important role.

Why do we cite?

Because citation benefits:

- The readers
- The writer
- The author of the source being cited
Benefits for readers:

• If readers want more information, citation tells them where to track it down

• Citation also helps establish relationships among texts. It helps the readers understand the conversation going on in your essay.

Robillard, A. “Young Scholars: Affection Composition: A Challenge to Disciplinary Citation.”
Benefits for the writer:

• Citation shows your awareness of the conversation going on around your topic. It helps establish your expertise.
• Citation shows that you are backing up your claims with good evidence.
• Citation can align you with a particular school of thought within a discipline.

Benefits for the author of the source being cited:

• Citation gives credit where credit is due.
• It shows which ideas belong not to writer of the paper, but to other scholars.
When do we cite?

Cite sources within your paper and at the end of your paper whenever:

- You summarize, paraphrase, or quote an original idea from a source
- You use factual information that is not common knowledge to the general public or to your particular discipline (not sure? cite it!)
- You use charts, graphs, photos, or any artwork from a source
- You are citing statistics, evidence, or data that doesn’t come from your own experiments

WHEN IN DOUBT, CITE IT!
Does that mean EVERYTHING in my paper needs to be cited?

The following do **NOT** have to be documented:

- Facts that are widely known to the general public
- Information or judgments considered to be “common knowledge”
- Facts widely known in your particular discipline
Examples of Common Knowledge

• John Adams was the second president

• The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941

If you see a fact in three or more sources, and you are fairly certain your readers already know this information, it is likely to be “common knowledge”

WHEN IN DOUBT, CITE IT!
Let’s Test our Knowledge!

Plagiarism Quiz:

www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php
Thanks for coming!