Participating in Scholarly Conversations

Maintaining Originality in Your Academic Publications
AKA Ensuring Plagiarism Does Not Derail Your Academic Intentions

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Stout’s Argument

• We hold students accountable for plagiarism but perhaps haven’t really taught students what it really is.

• When we talk about plagiarism do we all mean the same thing?

Definitions

• “Plagiarism is defined as appropriating someone else’s words or ideas without acknowledgement.”

• “the practice of copying and publishing somebody else’s work as one’s own”

• “Literary theft. Plagiarism occurs when a writer duplicates another writer’s language or ideas and then calls the work his or her own.”
The ASA has a firm commitment to full and proper attribution and authorship credit, as set forth in the ASA Code of Ethics.

(a) In publications, presentations, teaching practice, and service, sociologists explicitly identify credit, and reference the author when they take data or material verbatim from another person’s written work, whether it is published, unpublished, or electronically available.

(b) In their publications, presentations, teaching, practice, and service, sociologists provide acknowledgment of and reference to the use of others’ work, even if the work is not quoted verbatim or paraphrased, and they do not present others’ work as their own whether it is published, unpublished, or electronically available.

Examples

• “Plagiarism Found in 10 NPR Music Stories” (2015)

• “In Her Own Words” (2014)
  • professor from Brown University
  • book: *Thinking Without Thinking in the Victorian Novel* (Vanessa Ryan)

• ASU Professor Resigns Amid Plagiarism Accusations (2016)
  • book: *Peace be Still: Modern Black America from World War II to Barack Obama* (Matthew Whitaker)
What falls under appropriating, copying, duplicating? What does it look like?

http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism/

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE CONSIDERED 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 incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Plagiarism occurs when:

- **Three or more words** are copied word for word from another source, and used without quotes.
- Quotes are used but no citation is used.
- A paraphrase has no citation.
- **A paraphrase is used, with only a few words changed or synonyms are substituted, a citation is used, and/or sentence structure remains identical to the original.**
- A graphic is copied and pasted, without the author’s permission, even though there is a citation. (In the real world graphics fall in the same copyright category as animations, films, tables, and figures. The creation of these materials is an author’s invention/creation of how the material is presented. Therefore, use of another’s graphic always requires author permission, otherwise copyright infringement has occurred, which is plagiarism.)

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Authors Note Reasons

• “Plagiarism Found in 10 NPR Music Stories” (2015) Brian Wise

• “In Her Own Words” (2014)
  • book: *Thinking Without Thinking in the Victorian Novel* (Vanessa Ryan)

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“unintentional lapses”

“resulted from mistakes I made in documenting my research”

“It is painful to recognize that I was so careless as to fail to properly paraphrase and cite sources, despite my reverence and respect for the work of others in this field.”
Paraphrasing | Giving Credit

Adequate Paraphrasing

Inadequate paraphrasing = patchwriting

Intention

+ Excellent research practices
Paraphrasing

• Paraphrasing may in fact be patchwriting

• See the work of Rebecca Moore Howard

• Patchwriting = "copying from a source text and then deleting some words, altering grammatical structures, or plugging in one-for-one synonym-substitutes" (Howard 233)

Paraphrasing

Use of Sources & Understanding Sources
Example

- Handout
- Text from McCormick related to Benjamin Franklin
- Look at original text & determine the best paraphrase.
Phrases & Structure

**Novel**

- compare text in *Sloppy Firsts* and *Second Helpings* (McCafferty) with *How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life* (Viswanathan)

- Examples noted on Wikipedia

**Speech**

- See Melania Trump, Michelle Obama’s speeches side-by-side (USA Today, posted in YouTube)
Ideas & Common Knowledge

- an idea cannot be copyrighted
- common knowledge is not copyrighted
- the expression of an idea can be copyrighted
- the creation of an idea can be copyrighted

Beyond Texts

• Vanilla Ice (1989) - Ice, Ice Baby
• Queen and Davie Bowie (1982) - Under Pressure
• https://youtu.be/HAA__AW3I1M
• Blurred Lines (2013) - Robin Thicke & Pharrell Williams
• Got to Give it Up (1977) - Marvin Gaye
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wj86CJMQbKE
Research Practices
Managing Sources
Managing Sources

• ... back to Vanessa Ryan at Brown University

• Her book (2012) included quotes without attribution.

• She noted that her plagiarism was unintentional and “resulted from mistakes I made in documenting my research”.

• “Ryan’s colleague said she thought the case demonstrated how easy it could be – even for the brightest young scholars – to accidentally mix their words with others’ after hours, days, and even years spent in libraries covering vast amounts of material.”

from “In Her Own Words” (2014) in Inside Higher Ed
“Scholars have an obligation to be meticulous in their use of source material, and any significant deviation from rigorous attention to the ethical use of other work should be seen as plagiarism.”

What strategies do you use to manage your research?

Broad Suggestions

• Organize sources
• Paraphrase adequately
• Take care in note-taking e.g. page numbers, direct quotes etc.
• Indicate on your notes if you are copying a direct quote, paraphrasing or rewriting
• Keep track of sources when writing (distinguish between the two)
• Use a citation management tool
Documenting Your Research Process

• Retain notes, drafts etc. (can refer to this trail later)

• Implement a versioning system

• Example: The Shape of Non-Plagiarism

ASA Style - Key Characteristics

• What are some of the key elements of ASA style?
ASA Style - Key Characteristics

In-text references
• include author name and date (Smith 2016)
• page number(s) included if there is a direct quote or paraphrase
• page numbers follow date with a colon (Smith 2016:34)
• author name can be moved to the text Smith’s study (2016) determined ….

Reference page
• titled References
• references listed in alphabetical order by last name
• list all authors (in-text references allow for et al. when four or more authors, not here)
• normally spell out name, can use initials if published that way
• URLs are in (parentheses), DOIs are not

Endnotes or Footnotes
• use superscript Arabic numerals, consecutive
• Page titled Notes or Endnotes (if using endnotes)
RefWorks

- easier to capture citation information including websites
  - “Save to RefWorks” bookmarklet
- some annotation functionality
- more drag and drop functionality
- Add-in for Google docs
- easier to see missing information in citations
- easier to customize a citation style
- quick highlight of new interface
- [http://libguides.ucmerced.edu/refworks_upgrade](http://libguides.ucmerced.edu/refworks_upgrade)
 References


