

## IS IT PLAGIARISM? A DISCUSSION

Plagiarism is theft of intellectual property. It is a form of cheating or stealing. If you present the work of others—words, images, sounds, ideas—as your own, you are plagiarizing. As students, your primary concerns should be learning and developing habits of scholarship.

The most obvious form of plagiarism is stealing an author's exact words and failing to use quotation marks or to cite the author. However, plagiarism can be far less obvious. Many students plagiarize unintentionally.

In order to be sure you avoid plagiarism, you'll need to have a clear idea of exactly what might be considered plagiarism. Have you ever done any of the things in the following list? Have you ever heard of anyone else actually doing any of these things? (No names, please.) Before we discuss these cases as a class, decide which of the following you would consider plagiarism. Some examples are clearer than others. Be ready to discuss your responses with the class.

- |   |     |    |          |
|---|-----|----|----------|
| 1. Copying or sharing homework with a fellow student  | Yes | No | Not Sure |
| <i>Comments:</i>  |     |    |          |
| 2. Failing to cite a commonly known fact  | Yes | No | Not Sure |
| <i>Comments:</i>  |     |    |          |
| 3. Failing to cite a statistic  | Yes | No | Not Sure |
| <i>Comments:</i>  |     |    |          |
| 4. Paraphrasing without documenting the work of others you find in books, magazines, or websites                      | Yes | No | Not Sure |
| <i>Comments:</i>  |     |    |          |
| 5. Asking another student to write a paper for you  | Yes | No | Not Sure |
| <i>Comments:</i>  |     |    |          |
| 6. Copying material from a source and citing the material in your bibliography, but leaving out in-text documentation | Yes | No | Not Sure |
| <i>Comments:</i>  |     |    |          |

7. Listing works in your bibliography that you have not used or read Yes No Not Sure  
*Comments:*

8. Mixing the words of an author with your own without documentation Yes No Not Sure  
*Comments:*


9. Taking a paper you wrote for one class and submitting it to another teacher  
Yes No Not Sure  
*Comments:*

10. Having your parent substantially edit your work .> Yes No Not Sure  
**Comments:**

11. Copying and pasting relevant pieces of electronic text together, citing as you go along  
Yes No Not Sure  
*Comments:*

12. Presenting a paper or document you found on the Internet as your own Yes No Not Sure  
*Comments:*

13. Substantially editing a paper you found on the Internet Yes No Not Sure-  
*Comments:*

14. Pasting an image from a  website into your multimedia project and documenting it Yes No Not Sure  
**Comments:**

15. Pasting an image from a website into your web page and documenting it Yes No Not Sure  
*Comments:*