

GUIDELINE DOCUMENT 3: ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES/TYPES OF PLAGIARISM AND OTHER ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. GENERAL COMMENTS⁵

You commit plagiarism when you present someone else's ideas – published or unpublished – as if they were your own. People's ideas may be contained in the following:

- **Written text**
Journal articles, books, theses, dissertations, newspapers, magazines, notes, course material, students' projects, email messages, data, computer code, everything on the Internet, etc
- **Visual text**
Books on fine art, graphics, photographs, etc
- **Multimedia products**
Websites, video productions, films, CDs and DVDs, design projects, etc
- **Music**
Compositions, lyrics, CDs and DVDs, music or sound bites on the Internet, etc
- **Spoken text**
Speeches, audio recordings, lectures, interviews, etc

Changing the words of an original source is *not* sufficient to prevent plagiarism. If you have retained the essential idea of an original source, and have not cited it, then no matter how drastically you may have altered its context or presentation, *you have still plagiarised.*

“Citing” provides the information necessary to find that source again, including

- information about the author;
- the title of the source;
- the name and location of the company that published the source;
- the date the source was published; and
- the page numbers of the material you are using.

⁵ Comments drafted by the Plagiarism Prevention Working Group during workshops held in 2008.



2. TYPES OF PLAGIARISM

Note:

The following information on the types of plagiarism is provided by Turnitin.com and Research Resources. Turnitin allows free distribution and non-profit use of this document in educational settings.⁶

“Anyone who has written or graded a paper knows that plagiarism is not always a black-and-white issue. The boundary between plagiarism and research is often unclear. Learning to recognise the various forms of plagiarism, especially the more ambiguous ones, is an important step in the fight to prevent it.

I. Sources not cited

- 1) ‘The Ghost Writer’
The writer turns in another’s work, word-for-word, as his/her own.
- 2) ‘The Photocopy’
The writer copies significant portions of text straight from a single source, without alteration.
- 3) ‘The Potluck Paper’
The writer tries to disguise plagiarism by copying from several different sources, tweaking the sentences to make them fit together while retaining most of the original phrasing.
- 4) ‘The Poor Disguise’
Although the writer has retained the essential content of the source, he/she has altered the paper’s appearance slightly by changing key words and phrases.
- 5) ‘The Labo[u]r of Laziness’
The writer takes the time to paraphrase most of the paper from other sources and makes it all fit together, instead of spending the same effort on original work.
- 6) ‘The Self-Stealer’
The writer ‘borrows’ generously from his/her previous work, violating policies concerning the expectation of originality adopted by most academic institutions.

⁶ http://www.plagiarism.org/resources/documentation/plagiarism/learning/types_of_plagiarism.doc



II. Sources cited (but still plagiarised!)

- 1) 'The Forgotten Footnote'
The writer mentions an author's name for a source, but neglects to include specific information on the location of the material referenced. This often masks other forms of plagiarism by obscuring source locations.
- 2) 'The Misinformer'
The writer provides inaccurate information regarding the sources, making it impossible to find them.
- 3) 'The Too-Perfect Paraphrase'
The writer properly cites a source, but neglects to put in quotation marks text that has been copied word-for-word, or close to it. Although attributing the basic ideas to the source, the writer is falsely claiming original presentation and interpretation of the information.
- 4) 'The Resourceful Citer'
The writer properly cites all sources, paraphrasing and using quotations appropriately. The catch? The paper contains almost no original work! It is sometimes difficult to spot this form of plagiarism because it looks like any other well-researched document.
- 5) 'The Perfect Crime'
Well, we all know it doesn't exist. In this case, the writer properly quotes and cites sources in some places, but goes on to paraphrase other arguments from those sources without citation. This way, the writer tries to pass off the paraphrased material as his/her own analysis of the cited material."

