



Addressing Plagiarism in Different Academic Contexts

Plagiarism is a common and serious concern in academic settings. It is defined as "when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its sources" (Council of Writing Program Administrators, 2003). Plagiarism can be directly copying someone else's words and ideas, or it can be incorporating information without giving credit to the sources. This resource will provide some additional context into what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Plagiarism in the United States

Compared to other cultures, American settings deem plagiarism to be unethical; by taking the words of others, you are stealing someone else's intellectual thoughts where no original credit can be given. American academic settings have a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism, as it is considered a form of cheating and academic dishonesty. Students who engage in plagiarism may receive a zero on the assignment, may fail the class, or may face expulsion.

American plagiarism norms are different from other cultures. In other countries, for example, using someone's work without a citation is a way of honoring them. Because of this, many international students, especially those whose native language is not English, struggle with academic integrity rules that are common in American colleges and universities (Campbell, 2017). When international students come to America, the variety of styles and rules for citations can be a world of differences from their own.

How to Identify When You Are Using Someone Else's Work

Knowing whether or not you are steering clear of plagiarism can be a difficult task. You will know if you need to acknowledge a source:

