

Writing and Tutorial Center

Avoiding Plagiarism

Plagiarism is generally defined as representing the ideas, expressions, language or creative work of others as one's own original work. It can also be defined as using the original work of others without attribution. It is not the same as copyright infringement, which has a narrower definition, and there are no legal penalties for plagiarism as such. However, plagiarism is considered a grave ethical lapse in academia, including at Pratt Institute, and can have serious consequences for students and professors alike.

Intentional plagiarism is commonly considered more serious than when it is accidental, but it is often difficult to prove intent, so it is important that all scholars develop a work process that will prevent even accidental plagiarism from appearing in their work. The first principle must be to make sure that every idea, expression, or use of language that is not your own must be attributed to the original author, speaker or thinker. The same holds true for research data: every factoid, graph, chart or table used in your work must be attributed to the original author or researcher if it is not entirely your own work. That means whenever you find materials that might be useful to your research, you should record a full citation of the work. Make sure you know which citation style your professor or department prefers/requires, and if you are unsure how to cite the work, consult [Purdue OWL](#).

Proper citation will take care of the majority of plagiarism concerns. However, if the language you use to summarize or paraphrase another author's work is too close to the original, it can trigger alarm bells too. Accurate, original paraphrase and summary are skills the Institute wants every student to master, and the more often you do it, the easier it becomes. Relying on language borrowed from internet summaries or chatbots not only risks plagiarism accusations, but undermines a central piece of university-level education. Use your own words. Professors will appreciate your original work even if the prose is less elegant than the author you're paraphrasing.

Using an AI chatbots to write an entire paper is generally considered equivalent to plagiarism, as it is not the original writing of the student. Worse, AI chatbots often incorporate whole sections of original prose without revealing the source, putting the student in danger of the more traditional form of plagiarism accusations outlined above. AI chatbots have also been shown to hallucinate fake "facts" and cite non-existent sources in academic papers, and these are often easy for an experienced professor to recognize. Making the effort to do the writing yourself avoids all of these problems, and will make you a better writer as well.

TYPES OF PLAGIARISM

Complete Plagiarism – Submitting another author's work under your own name.

Direct Plagiarism – Copying text from another document word-for-word.

Mosaic Plagiarism – Interspersing someone else's phrases or text within your work.

Paraphrasing Plagiarism – Making *very* minor changes and using others' writing.

Self Plagiarism – Reusing a major part of your own work from another class.

Accidental Plagiarism – Unintentionally paraphrasing or copying due to neglect.

Source-Based Plagiarism – Referencing an incorrect or non-existent source.

"[Common Types of Plagiarism](#)" from Enago Academy.

Check out our guide "[Paraphrasing and Quoting with Purpose](#)" for more info about citing properly.