

Plagiarism

# PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

ISDEV MONTHLY GRADUATE SUPERVISION

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# What is Plagiarism?

USM definition:

Plagiarism refers to acts of presenting, quoting, copying, paraphrasing or spreading ideas, images, processes, works, data, personal lines or those of other people or sources without proper acknowledgement, reference or quotation to the original source(s).

# **The acts of plagiarism include but are not limited to the following:**



**Quoting verbatim word for word replication of work of other people.**



**Paraphrasing another person's work by changing some of the words, or the order of the words, without due acknowledgement of the source(s).**



**Submitting another person's work in whole or part as one's own.**



**Auto-plagiarising or self-plagiarising one's own previous work or work that has already been submitted for assessment or for any other academic award and pass it as a new creation without citing the original content.**



**Insufficient or misleading referencing of the source(s) that would enable the reader to check whether any particular work has indeed been cited accurately and/or fairly and thus identify the original writer's particular contribution in the work submitted**



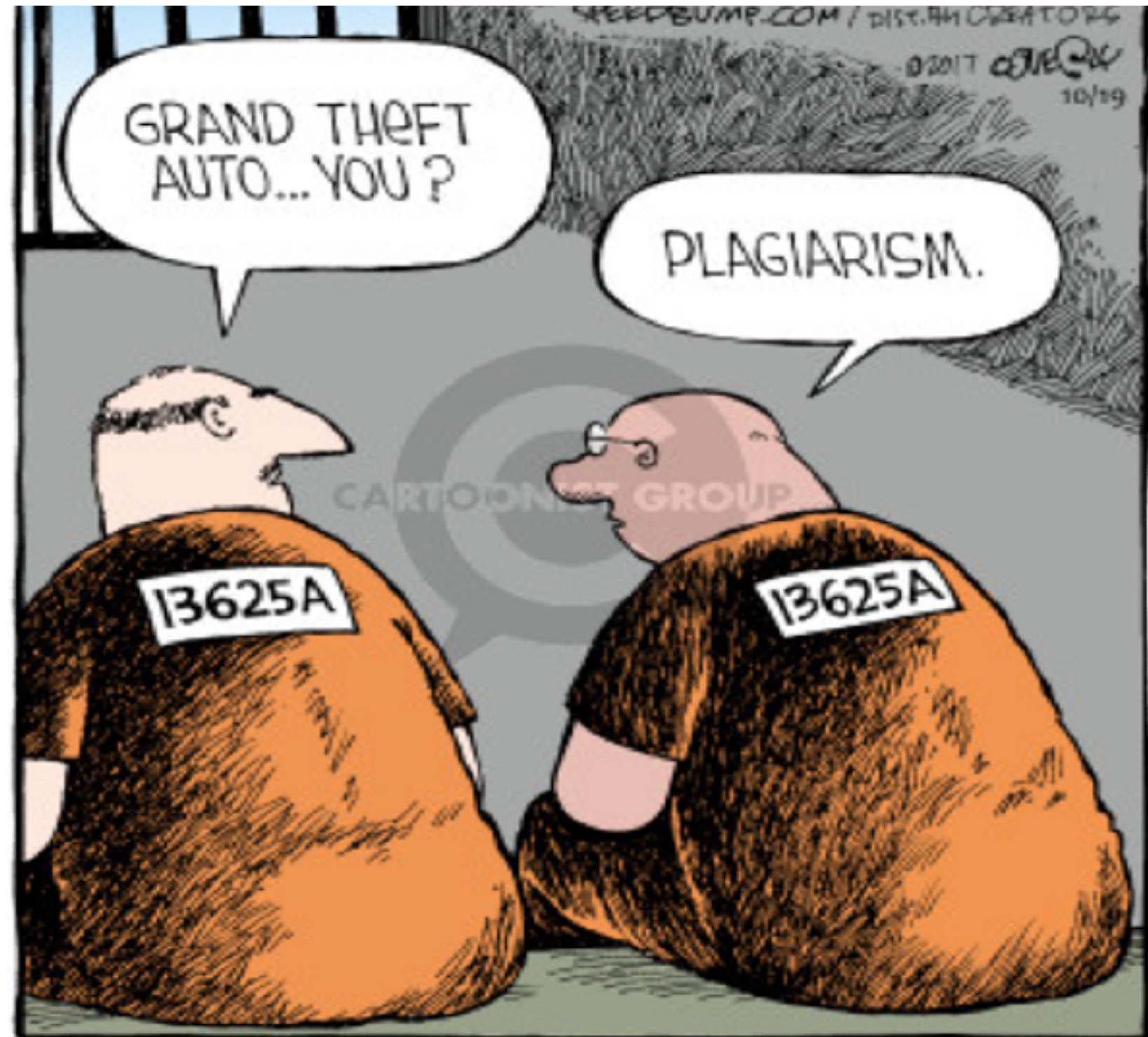
**Any other acts, which in the opinion of the University, fall into the plagiarism definition**



# Why is it Important?

**It is a matter of academic honesty and integrity.**

**The information in books, the internet and other sources does not belong to you – it belongs to the writers who created it.**



# Why do students plagiarise?

## Excuses!



# Types of Plagiarism



## **Intentional (Deliberate Plagiarism)**

1. Copying a friend's work
2. Buying or borrowing papers
3. Patchwork writing – Ctrl C & Ctrl P – text from electronic sources without documenting
4. Media "borrowing" without documenting
5. Web publishing without permission of creators.



## **Unintentional (Accidental Plagiarism)**

1. Not knowing when & how to cite
2. Not knowing how to paraphrase or summarise.
3. Not knowing what "common knowledge"
4. Recycling old papers
5. Quoting excessively
6. Poor documentation

# UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

## POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

University's strong commitment to uphold academic integrity in relation to plagiarism.

This Policy will be the source of reference when there is an infringement of academic conduct relating to plagiarism.

Regulation of the University and may be used as basis if any University members violate any rules and law of the University.

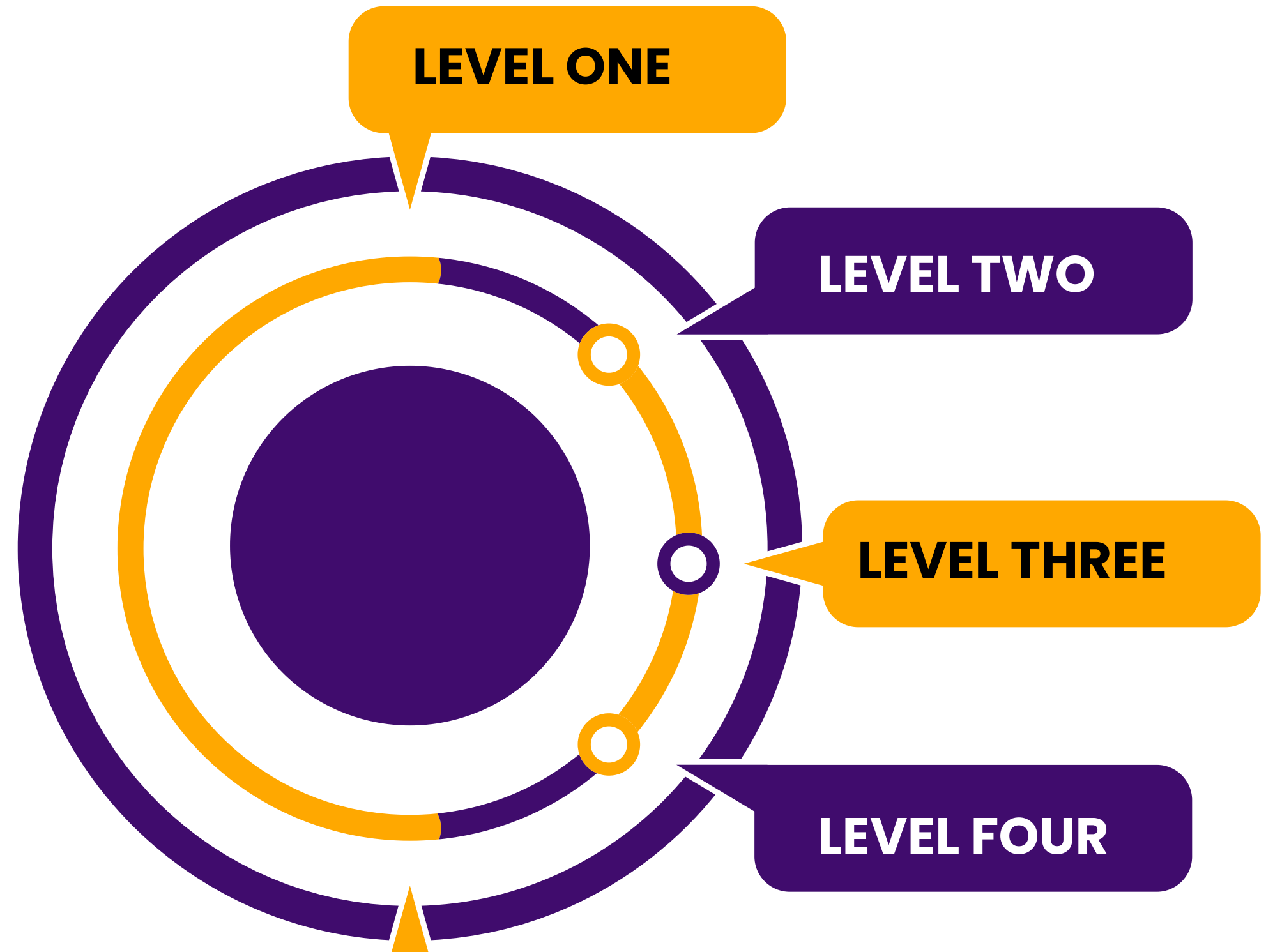
Substantial portion of the academic work and research are in the written form and the University is committed to deter plagiarism.





# Levels of Plagiarism

- The University reserves the right to take one or more action in the event the the levels of plagiarism are as defined –





# Real Life Consequences

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## Malaysia editor in plagiarism row

By Jonathan Kent  
BBC News, Kuala Lumpur

**The editor of Malaysia's newspaper, the New Straits Times, is to step down amidst allegations that he plagiarised the work of an American journalist.**

Brendan Pereira's recent column has quickly become the target of internet commentators who urged him to quit.

Local websites have placed his column alongside another by the award-winning Mitch Albom of the Detroit Free Press.

The similarities were striking. Whole paragraphs in Mr Pereira's work mirrored Mr Albom's earlier piece.

# USM GOOD ACADEMIC PRACTICE

## Academic Integrity

Prevention any misconduct which comprise misattribution of data, stealing of ideas or direct plagiarism, deliberate interference and failure to act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of knowledge, ideas and information in relation to the work of others.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FOR UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTABILITY

Universiti Sains Malaysia views academic integrity as a serious matter. USM is steadfast in its principle in this regard to ensure that this tower of knowledge is respected and known for its high integrity. Academic integrity needs to be strengthened, embraced and upheld by the whole University community.

Through a series of training activities, **Universiti Sains Malaysia conscientiously reminds** its community, especially its undergraduate and postgraduate students, to pursue their studies with integrity, accountability, responsibility and without compromise through academic misconduct.

Academic misconduct covers **plagiarism, free-riderism**, cheating in research and/or publication and other conduct as such.

**"Plagiarism"** refers to acts of presenting, quoting, copying, and paraphrasing or spreading ideas, images, processes, works, data, personal lines or those of others or other resources without acknowledging, referring or quoting from its rightful, original source.

**"Free-riderism"** refers to the act of 'taking a free ride' by putting one's name to an academic outcome, especially in research and publication, without any significant contribution on his/her part whatsoever.

This guide is applicable to all Universiti Sains Malaysia community members with immediate effect.



# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

**Academic integrity** is the value of being honest, ethical, and thorough in your academic work. It allows readers to trust that you aren't misrepresenting your findings or taking credit for the work of others.

**Academic dishonesty** (or academic misconduct) refers to actions that undermine academic integrity. It typically refers to some form of plagiarism, ranging from serious offenses like purchasing a pre-written essay to milder ones like accidental citation errors.





# Types of academic dishonesty

## Plagiarism



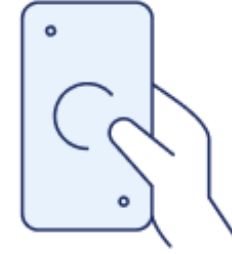
Copying someone else's work and passing it off as your own

## Cheating



Using unauthorized sources/devices to help you achieve a better outcome

## Contract cheating



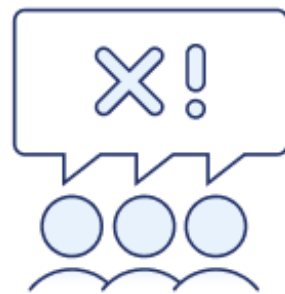
Paying or bribing someone to help you cheat

## Facilitation



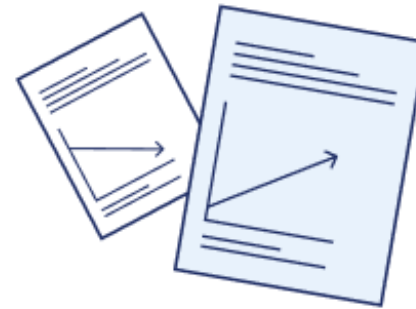
Helping others to cheat

## Collusion



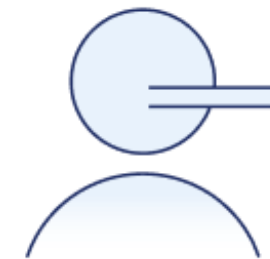
Working together with others to cheat

## Data fabrication



Misrepresenting the results of your study

## Deceit



Lying or falsifying information

# Why does academic integrity matter?

Most students are clear that academic integrity is important, but dishonesty is still common.

There are various reasons you might be tempted to resort to academic dishonesty: pressure to achieve, time management struggles, or difficulty with a course. But academic dishonesty hurts you, your peers, and the learning process



**Unfair to the plagiarized author/other**



**Damaging to your own learning**



**Harmful if published research contains misleading information**

# THE CONCEPT OF HONESTY IN ISLAM

## The Gravity of Honesty

For the first lesson about honesty, we must define honesty and think about its importance in relation to other morals within the Quran.

The word “honesty” doesn’t exist in a single form in Arabic, and there are several terms that could encompass this meaning.

(Sidq and Amanah), which mean to be trustworthy, (Qist and ‘Adl) which both mean to be just, are just some of the terms that go into the larger category of what we think about when we say the word “honest.”



# THE CONCEPT OF HONESTY IN ISLAM

“Honesty descended from the Heavens and settled in the roots of the hearts of men (faithful believers), and then the Quran was revealed, and the people read the Quran, (and learnt it from it) and also learnt from the sayings and traditions. Both the Qur’an and the traditions strengthened their honesty.” (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Do I have  
to cite  
everything?



# Nope!

- Facts that are widely known, or
- Information or judgments considered “common knowledge”

**Do NOT have to be cited**





## Examples of Common Knowledge or Widely Accepted Facts

- The Nile is the longest river in the world
- The world is round
- The sun rises in the east

*If you see the information in three or more sources, and you are quite sure that your readers already know this information, it is likely to be “common knowledge.”*

*However, whenever you are in doubt, **cite!***

## **You do not need to document/cite when:**

- Writing your own experiences and observations
- Presenting the results of original research or experiments
- Writing your own thoughts, comments or conclusions in an assignment
- Evaluating or offering your own analysis
- Using common knowledge or folklore
- Using generally accepted facts or information

# What's the big deal?

If I change a few words, I'm okay, right?



Wrong! Paraphrasing original ideas without documenting your source, is plagiarism too!





You can “borrow” from the  
works of others to be used  
in your own work!

**BUT HOW?**

# How To Avoid PLAGIARISM?



This will help you to blend/incorporate source materials into your writing and make sure that your "voice" is heard

### ***Tips for Using Quotations***

- ◆ **Students frequently overuse direct quotation**
- ◆ **Only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter**

### ***For Quotations***

1. Must be identical to the original. Match the source document word for word
2. Put quotation marks around the original author's exact words
3. Must reference the original source
4. Include the page number of the original source

# ***Paraphrasing***

## ***For Paraphrasing***

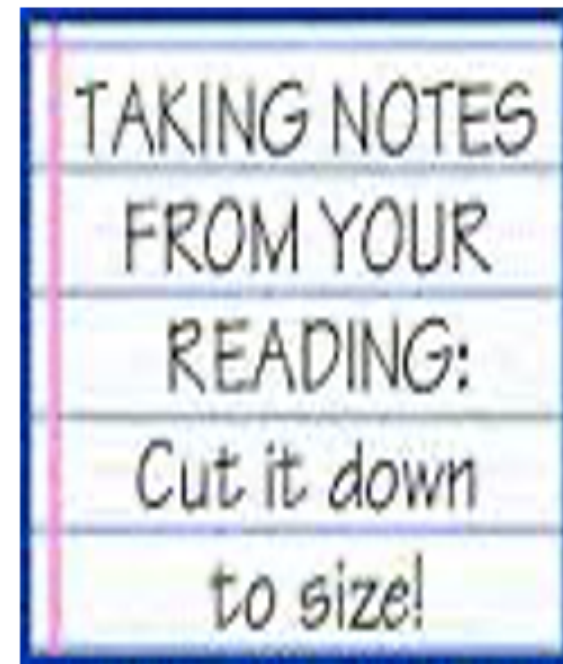
Presenting *someone else's* essential ideas and information in *your own words or language*



1. The paraphrased material is usually shorter than the original passage
2. Must use your own words
3. Must reference the original source

# ***Summarizing***

**The author's original words are rewritten into a substantially shortened form that captures the most important elements**



1. Select the information you need
2. Use your own words
  - a. Use synonyms (words with same meaning)
  - b. Interchange active and passive voice
3. Give credit to original author
  - a. Use **In-text Citation** ( author-date style)
4. Compare what you wrote with the original text.
  - a. Are main ideas and substance covered
  - b. Did you use your own words and modify sentence structure
  - c. Did you give credit to author of original source



- **First, do your own work**

- Begin your research/assignment project as early as possible.
- Performing under deadline pressures often pushes a student into cheating.

- **Second, establish your own voice**

- Learn as much as you can about your topic: it will help you develop a point-of-view from which to speak.
- The more you know, the easier it will be to avoid plagiarism.

- **Third, do your research carefully.**

- Read the material closely.
- Keep an annotated bibliography of the source material you intend to use in your paper.

- **Fourth, keep copies of all your drafts**

- In review, you will notice your own point-of-view developing, changing and growing; a voice of authority all your own, emerging.
- It will stand in contrast to those of your sources

- **Finally, make sure that your document is properly constructed and your sources correctly cited.**

- **Remember**, if the general concept, idea, quotation, statistic, fact, illustration, graph or data you intend to include is not common knowledge in the field of your investigation, a source must be cited.

# Checking for Plagiarism



Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) uses Turnitin as a plagiarism detection tool. Turnitin is a text-matching software that checks a student's written work against electronic texts from the Internet, published works (such as journal articles and books), and assignments previously submitted to Turnitin by other students. It helps students to demonstrate academic integrity in their work.

Please view USM policy on plagiarism: <https://ips.usm.my/current-student-v1/usm-policy-on-plagiarism>

**\* Note: The plagiarism checker services is provided by Schools/ Centers, not USM Library. To use this service, students/ researchers need to consult with your schools/ Centers/ IPS / Supervisors.**

# Thank You

