Plagiarism
Study Guide

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the failure to reference, and is regarded as cheating. If you use someone else’s words or ideas, you need a reference to the source material. Information that does not need to be referenced are:

- your own experiences or ideas, or
- information regarded as ‘common knowledge’.

See the Harvard Referencing Advanced guide at tafesa.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=30507287 for examples of when referencing is required.

Streaming videos on plagiarism

Online video - to access, login to MY LIBRARY then go to STREAMING VIDEOS on left-hand menu for link or click here: Streaming Videos.

Watch this video on your computer: Understanding plagiarism 2011 19 mins. “Information has never been more accessible than it is today. With millions of people contributing material to the internet, the temptation to plagiarise is ever-present. In this program, we explore the nature of plagiarism, including some common myths and misconceptions that drive some people to cheat others out of their intellectual property. The legal, academic, professional and personal consequences of being branded a plagiarist are also examined. (Section 2 is an explanation of plagiarism)” (VEA)

Websites on plagiarism

http://www.plagiarism.org/ - very helpful


http://www.plagiarismchecker.com/ - Uses Google to search the web and track down similar sentences. Just copy and paste your sentences into the box and click search.

http://www.neiltoolbox.com/plagiarism-tester/ - Copy up to 50 words and check for copying. Site also has a grammar checker, definition finder and a harvard reference helper - in the Students tab.

http://plagiarisma.net/ - Copy and paste your text into the box, type in your web address to see if anyone has copied your webpage, or upload documents for checking. Sign up for free.

Books on plagiarism (check library catalogue for availability)

Referencing and understanding plagiarism - Kate Williams and Jude Carroll

Teaching to avoid plagiarism: how to promote good source use - Diane Pecorari