To plagiarize is to appropriate and use someone else's words, ideas, or images as one's own and/or to use someone else's words, ideas, or images without properly citing the source. Although the societal consequences of plagiarizing are debilitating to the integrity of knowledge, the specific consequences to the culprit include severe administrative sanctions up to and including dismissal from employment or expulsion from the institution. However, the most important consequence is the contribution a violation makes to the culprit's own incompetence, caught or not.

**What is Plagiarism?**

Most college students are familiar with the concept of plagiarism, i.e. taking the ideas or expression of ideas (in any fixed form such as text, images, sound, video, and so forth) without proper attribution or citation. They know that plagiarism is "bad" and that they could get in serious trouble for plagiarizing another's work. But what does this mean?

Plagiarism is using or passing off someone else's work as your own, whether you have taken it verbatim (exactly) or whether you have paraphrased or manipulated it. While appropriating works or ideas from other people without attribution has always been wrong, the increasing amounts of information available on the Internet or through scanning make it an even greater temptation. Works of all kinds are easily found and copied. Many students are unaware that such activities constitute plagiarism or feel that it is unlikely that they will be caught. Either misconception can lead to serious academic repercussions.

Which of these is NOT an example of plagiarism?

- Reproducing someone else's work without quotation marks and/or attribution
- Paraphrasing or summarizing another's work without attribution
- Failing to cite a source for ideas or information not commonly known
- Failing to cite a source for ideas or information that is widely known
- Misquoting someone else's work
- Using another student's work as your own

For more information on the basics of plagiarism, including specific examples, try the: University of British Columbia Biology Program Guide 2001/2002: Plagiarism and "Avoiding Plagiarism at Oregon State University".

**What is the difference between copyright infringement and plagiarism?**

Generally speaking, a copyright holder has the exclusive rights to reproduce, display, transmit, perform, and modify a work as well as the right to publicly perform a sound recording by digital transmission. There are exemptions in the copyright act that provide for certain exceptions to those exclusive rights, many in favor of limited nonprofit educational purposes.

If none of the exemptions apply, the proposed use of someone else's copyrighted work will probably be copyright infringement. If proper attribution is required and is missing, the proposed use will also be plagiarism. For example, quoting extensively from a book without the copyright holder's permission would likely be copyright infringement. Extensive quoting without permission and without attribution would be infringement and plagiarism.

Similarly, extensive quoting without permission but with attribution would not be plagiarism but would still be copyright infringement. Conversely, extensive copying with permission but without attribution would be plagiarism but not copyright infringement.