

## **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

### **Dr. Ron Cooper, Humanities Department**

#### **1. Definition of plagiarism, CF policy manual:**

**Plagiarism.** From the Latin for “kidnapper,” taking ideas from another and passing them off as one’s own, whether the ideas are published, unpublished, or the work of another student. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting papers, examinations or assignments written by others; word-for-word copying of portions of another’s writing without indicating that the copied passage is a quotation (by the use of quotation marks or some other indicating device) and acknowledging the source in the appropriate format; the use of a particularly unique term or concept that one has come across in reading without acknowledging the author or source; the paraphrasing or abbreviated restatement of someone else’s idea(s) without acknowledging the author or source; the use of false citations or citing a source from which an idea has not been obtained; or submitting false or altered data in a laboratory. Plagiarism also occurs in a group project if a member of the group does not do his or her fair share of the group’s work but attempts to take credit for the work of the group. Because electronic information is so easily reproduced, respect for the work and personal expression of others is critical in computer environments. Violations, including plagiarism, invasion of privacy, unauthorized access, and copyright violations are grounds for disciplinary proceedings. Students should consult the section on plagiarism in the writing handbook used in ENC 1101. (*Adapted from the policies of Wheaton College, Old Dominion University, the University of Florida and the University of North Carolina – Greensboro.*)

#### **2. Forms of plagiarism:**

- a. Outright copying.
- b. Paraphrasing without citation.
- c. Paraphrasing with citation but sentences or phrases that should be in quotation marks are not.
- d. Including a Works Cited page without citations in the body of the paper.

#### Examples:

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most Americans were illiterate and had to depend upon the upper class to keep them informed about political events. (Miller, 89)

a’. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most Americans were illiterate and had to depend upon the upper class to keep them informed about political events.

b’. In the 1700s, many U.S. citizens could not read and were at the mercy of the wealthy to tell them about their government’s affairs.

c’. In the 1700s, few Americans could read, so most had to depend upon the upper class to keep them informed about political events. (Miller, 89)

A proper paraphrasing (i) has a citation and (ii) puts everything into your words.

Literacy has greatly contributed to our democracy, for today, unlike the 18<sup>th</sup> century when only privileged Americans could read, our citizens can gather political information for themselves. (Miller, 89)

### **3. Why is plagiarism wrong?**

Plagiarism wrongs

- the original writer— theft; abuse of rights; exploitation
- the reader— deception; lack of respect
- the plagiarist— loss of integrity, no learning, no expressing/thinking for herself; virtue— what sort of person would I be if this were my habitual behavior?

### **4. How to avoid plagiarism.**

- keep all citations on note cards or in document separate from other notes
- copy down exactly and in quotation marks so that you will not mistake the quotation later for a paraphrase
- play it safe and use quotation marks and citations for any ideas, facts, phrases, etc. that are not your own
- give yourself plenty of time to write the paper so that you do not (a) get in a hurry and unintentionally plagiarize out of carelessness or (b) get desperate and intentionally plagiarize because you have no time to write your own paper
- get help from your professor when you have any doubts

### **5. CF's Academic Integrity Procedure**

Academic Integrity Seminar