

WRITING CENTER

Writing Center Statement on Plagiarism

The University Writing Center is obligated to uphold the University's rules regarding academic honesty by helping students produce correctly documented texts. Because our mission is to help writers improve their writing skills, we view acts of plagiarism as particularly counterproductive to our goal. If a peer tutor believes that a student has used intellectual property belonging to another (words, phrases and/or ideas) without appropriate documentation, the tutor will inform the writer of this problem and recommend solutions. We realize that there are many documentation styles and that they can be confusing. We are happy to help students resolve this confusion.

If a tutor believes that working with a writer will compromise his/her responsibility to uphold academic honesty standards, he/she is obligated to end the conference and inform the writer of the reason for doing so. In some cases, the Writing Center Director may deem it necessary to take further action.

Plagiarism can include, but is not limited to, the following acts:

- Definition:** Using the words of another author without indicating that these words belong to another author.
Solution: Enclose the words in quotation marks and include a reference to the author's name and the page or paragraph number for the source.
- Definition:** Summarizing the words of another author without indicating that the summary has been derived from another author.
Solution: Refer to the author's name and the page number of the source (for MLA) or the author and date of publication (for APA).
- Definition:** Using the ideas of another author without indicating that these ideas belong to another author.
Solution: Attribute ideas to the author in the text and include a reference to the author's name and the page number of the source (for MLA style) or the author and date of publication (for APA style).
- Definition:** Engaging another writer, whether a professional, friend, or family member to write a document that the student writer is expected to be solely responsible for writing. Or, stealing, copying, or "borrowing" the writing of another author for the purpose of submitting the work as the writer's own.
Solution: Trust your writing abilities. If you are worried about your ability to produce text, visit the Writing Center early in your composing process to learn strategies for writing. Remember that if you borrow a paper from another student, he or she will also be considered guilty of academic dishonesty and will suffer the same consequences that you will.
- Definition:** Copying the organizational strategy of another author by presenting ideas in the text in exactly the same order as in the primary text.
Solution: Do some additional research and discuss your ideas with a tutor. Your work should make an original presentation of an issue. If you find that your text follows another writer's text too closely, then you need to learn more about the complexities of your topic so you can create a discussion that is uniquely yours.