**PLAGIARISM**

**Learning objectives:**

At the end of this session students should be able to

- Define the term "plagiarism"

- Explain the intention behind plagiarism: why it is done?

- State the types of plagiarism

- Identify what is consider plagiarism by type

- Describe the overlap between plagiarism and copyright infringement

- Recognize the seriousness of plagiarism

- Believe that plagiarism will be recognized

- Illustrate with examples the methods of avoiding plagiarism

- Explain how to check own work for plagiarism

**Performance objectives:**

At the end of this session students should be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of plagiarism
2. Adopt methods of avoiding plagiarism
3. Check your own work for plagiarism before submission

**DEFINITION OF PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is defined as "The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own" (Oxford dictionary). Plagiarism involves the use of someone else work without quoting, attribution, or citation. It extends to the use of someone else words without paraphrasing.

Plagiarism then occurs when students fail to use quotations when copying word by word someone else ideas, not making reference to the source (citation) or paraphrasing too closely.

Synonyms of plagiarism include: Copying, stealing, piracy, appropriation and infringement of copyright ©.

## CATEGORIES OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is categorized into

- Unintentional plagiarism which is plagiarizing others' work *out of lack of knowledge* of proper citation, quoting and paraphrasing
- Deliberate plagiarism which is the Plagiarizing others' work *with full knowledge* that the act is an act of plagiarism

The fact that plagiarisms may be unintentional *doesn't exempt students of the responsibility and the consequences.*

## TYPES OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism may take several forms: The followings are the common forms of plagiarism

1. Reproducing (cloning): Generating a copy of someone else work from A to Z
2. Ctrl-C followed by Ctrl-V: Copy and paste a significant part (4 to 6 successive words in text) of someone else work without change
3. Find then Replace: Replacing certain words with synonyms while maintaining the original content
4. Mixing and combining: Paraphrasing and integration in own work
5. Recycling: Plagiarism of own previous work
6. Hybrid: Combine with perfection cited sources with copied work
7. Mash up: mixing copied materials from different sources
8. 404-Error: Use citation of non-existing work
9. Aggregator: Proper citation but paper doesn't contain original work
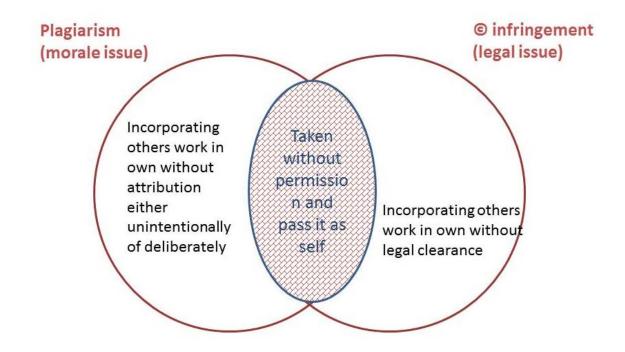10. Re-tweet: Proper citation but relies too closely on the original paper

## IDENTIFICATION OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism will not go unrecognized. Supervisors of students' work will recognized plagiarism based on one or more of the followings

1. Knowledge of previous writing
2. Higher level of writing
3. Use of uncommon or unfamiliar terms or words
4. Obvious difference in style or terminology between paragraphs and sections (inconsistencies)
5. Use of specific software to detect plagiarism

**RELATION BETWEEN PLAGIARISM AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

Copyright © infringement is "the act of violating the copyright owner's exclusive right through unauthorized or prohibited use of copyrighted material. A copyright owner's right is an exclusive one, and is granted under the federal Copyright Act. The diagram below shows the relation between plagiarism and copyright infringement.

Plagiarism
(morale issue)

© infringement
(legal issue)

Incorporating others work in own without attribution either unintentionally of deliberately

Taken without permission and pass it as self

Incorporating others work in own without legal clearance

"Fair use" is the use of a limited proportion of copyrighted materials for education and research purpose unless otherwise is indicated by the owner of the work. It is determined by

1. Purpose of use: non-profit
2. Nature of work used: published
3. Portion of the work used: not essential or relatively small
4. Effect of use on author: not violating owner's profit

**PREVENTION OF PLAGIARISM**

Prevention of plagiarism is related to achieving and maintaining originality and creativity as well as achieving and maintaining academic honesty. Plagiarism is an offense with adverse effects on reputation of the institution as well as the reputation and career of the person who plagiarize.

**General rules to avoid plagiarism**

1. Don't copy others' work (hard copies or internet)
2. Think and decide on what ideas you will put on your assignment
3. Identify what is YOURS and what is not and maintain sources
4. Get counseling from your supervisor on writing especially when you are doubting plagiarism

**Specific measures to avoid plagiarism include the use of citation, use of quotation, appropriate paraphrasing and summarization**

1. **Use proper citation**
   The use of citation entails making reference to the source from which the information have been obtained. No citation is required for "common knowledge" as: Sanitation of the environment will prevent a wide range of diseases.

2. **Use quotation**
   The use of quotation means putting the sentence extracted from others between quotation marks and attribute it to the original author in addition to proper citation of the source as shown in this example
   Original text reads
   Fifty years ago today was a tipping point in recognizing and reversing the deadly epidemic caused by smoking.
   It can be included in your text as follow
   In his speech, Dr. Frieden said "Fifty years ago today was a tipping point in recognizing and reversing the deadly epidemic caused by smoking" [citation]

3. **Paraphrasing**
   Paraphrasing means writing the sentence in your own words and in your own style **NOT ONLY** changing key words with synonyms in addition to proper citation as shown in this example
   Original text reads
   Fifty years ago today was a tipping point in recognizing and reversing the deadly epidemic caused by smoking
   It can be included in your text as follow
   The consequences of tobacco use and interventions to reverse the trend of the epidemic have been recognized 50 years ago [citation]

For effective paraphrasing

- Read the original passage until you understand its full meaning.
- Set the original aside, and use your own words to reflect what you have understood
- Check your interpretation with the original to make sure that your version conveyed the original information.
- Use quotation marks to a unique word or series used as they are
- Provide a citation for the source of the original passage

**4. Summarization**

Summarization refers to extracting the main idea and conveying it in few words using your own words in addition to the use of citation as shown in the example below

Original text of Bulman et al (2013) reads

Overall, our findings suggest some participants were screened for HIV without their consent, and without understanding the rationale for this procedure. Additionally, no participants remember being told they had the right to refuse testing. Finally some participants felt they were treated paternalistically when they attempted to ask questions about HIV screening. These situations all occurred in a location where opt-out HIV screening was policy.

It can be summarized as follow

Previous study (Bulman et al, 2013) cautioned that the "opt-out" approach for HIV screening of pregnant women may raise ethical concerns if women's informed consent is violated.

**CONCLUSION**

1. Plagiarism violated academic honesty and integrity
2. It entails the use of others' words or ideas without appropriate citation, use of quotations and paraphrasing
3. Plagiarism may be unintentional as a result of limited knowledge and skills
4. Plagiarism is a morale issue but copyright infringement is a legal issue
5. Plagiarism takes different forms; the simplest is copy and paste
6. There are different methods of recognizing plagiarism. The common is the use of specific software
7. Plagiarism can be avoided by the use citation, quotations, proper paraphrasing and summarization