Florida SouthWestern State College Charlotte Campus Library

**PLAGIARISM FAQ**

**What is Plagiarism?**

According to the *Merriam-Webster OnLine Dictionary*, to “plagiarize” means

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

Plagiarism is an act of *fraud*. It involves both **stealing** someone else’s work and **lying** about it afterward.

**What are examples of Plagiarism?**

* turning in someone else’s work as your own
* copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
* failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
* giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
* changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
* copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

**What if I copy something and change the wording?**

Changing the words of an original source is *not* sufficient to prevent plagiarism. If you have retained the essential idea of an original source, and have not cited it, then no matter how drastically you may have altered its context or presentation, *you have still plagiarized.*

**What is Florida SouthWestern State College’s Policy Regarding Plagiarism?**

Plagiarism is specifically addressed in the FSW State College Student Code of Conduct, Article IV: Academic Integrity and may carry any of the following sanctions:

* 1. Academic Penalty—the student may be given a zero/“F” for the assignment/course as indicated by the case;
  2. Suspension—Separation of the student from Florida SouthWestern for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to return.
  3. Dismissal—Separation from the College for an indefinite period of time. Readmission may be possible, based on meeting all readmission criteria and obtaining clearance from the Dean of Student Services or designee;
  4. Expulsion—Permanent separation of the student from Florida SouthWestern State College. All recommendations of expulsion are must be reviewed and approved by the College President.