

Avoiding Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting the work of another person (including words, ideas, data, evidence, thoughts, information, organizing principles, or style of presentation) as one's own and without proper citation. **To avoid plagiarism, you must cite summaries, paraphrases, and quotes.** You may also be required to cite or document your use of AI in accordance with your professor's policies.

Cite:

- Direct quotes, paraphrases, & summaries or whenever you use someone else's idea(s) found in any source
- If you received the information during an interview
- If you copy a chart, graph, or picture
- Generative AI or other uses of AI as required

Do Not Cite:

- If you are using an idea that is your own
- If the information that you are using is common knowledge (includes standard information—facts or dates from history, folk literature, and commonsense observations)

Recommendation: "If in doubt, cite!"

Plagiarism includes:

- Failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas
- Failing to enclose borrowed language in quotations
- Failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words
- Violating the academic integrity policy of your university or course syllabus

What are the Consequences?

SUNY Canton's policy on plagiarism is as follows:

"In those instances where cheating, plagiarism, and/or alteration of academic documents is proven, a student will be subject to a grade of "F" for the specific assignment and/or course."

Deliberate Plagiarism:

- Buying a paper
- Stealing a paper
- Having someone else write any part of your paper
- Borrowing a paper
- Copying from any source without citing on purpose

Accidental Plagiarism:

- Paraphrasing too closely to the original without citing
- Expanding on someone else's ideas without paraphrasing

*Adapted from handout created by Anna Bosco for SLU Writing Center