



Plagiarism is academic dishonesty and is an unacceptable activity at Troy University. Based on United States law, words and ideas are intellectual property and are protected from theft.

DEFINING PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is representing someone else's ideas or work as your own original ideas or work.

Plagiarism encompasses many things, and is by far the most common manifestation of academic fraud. For example, copying a passage straight from a book, a website, or any other source into a paper without using quotation marks *and* explicitly citing the source is plagiarism. *Additionally, paraphrasing is plagiarism where you fail to cite your original source and, in some cases, where you fail to use quotation marks as well.* It is very important that students properly acknowledge all ideas, work, and even distinctive words or phrases that are not their own.

All of the following are considered 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

Additionally, if you download a paper from the Internet and submit it as your own work or if you submit a paper you wrote and submitted in a previous class, you have committed acts of plagiarism.

PENALTIES

At Troy University, penalties for plagiarism include, but are not limited to, a reduction of grade on an assignment and/or a course as well as such sanctions as loss of student privileges, probation, suspension, and expulsion. These penalties for plagiarism are described in the Standards of Content section of *The Oracle: The Troy University Student Handbook*.

GUIDELINES TO ACADEMIC HONESTY

If you are unsure if an assignment is plagiarized, use the following checklist for guidance:

You need to cite the specific source(s) in your work, even if:

1. You put all direct quotes in quotation marks.
2. You changed words used by the author into synonyms.
3. You completely paraphrased the ideas to which you referred.

4. Your sentence is mostly made up of your own thoughts, but contains a reference to the author's ideas.
5. You mention the author's name in the sentence.

When in doubt, provide the proper citation to show that the ideas and materials are not your own.

Academic honesty is a cornerstone of learning and should be practiced with all academic assignments.

Source:

[Oracle: Troy University Student Handbook, 2016-17](#)

