

PLAGIARISM POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

This document serves as an overview of how to avoid plagiarism to maintain academic integrity and honesty with your work. Plagiarism of any work submitted, presented, or published is unacceptable. The Academy has established significant consequences addressing the submission of plagiarized work. Violations of the plagiarism policy may result in severe penalties, including but not limited to the suspension of your application (fellowship, diplomate, lectures and workshops, abstracts, etc.) for three years. While this resource offers guidance, it is crucial to understand that you are ultimately responsible for the integrity of your writing and presented materials.

Plagiarism can occur overtly or passively.

OVERT PLAGIARISM

- Directly incorporating or reproducing verbatim text from a source into one's work is overt plagiarism, UNLESS the quoted text is enclosed within quotation marks (" ") and a citation or reference to the original source is provided.
- This applies to quoting passages, sentences, or phrases from written sources such as books, articles, websites, presentation materials, and continuing education lectures.
 - **TIP:** Track all your sources with a citation manager (e.g., Zotero, Mendeley, EndNote).

PASSIVE PLAGIARISM

- This occurs when the sentence structure and word choice are too similar to the source. Writers **must** use their own voice.
 - **TIP:** Allow time between reading the source information and writing your material.
- You must cite your previous work if you have previously published material and would like to use it again.
- "Patchwork paraphrasing" is when writers do not properly paraphrase sources or include appropriate citations.
 - **TIP:** When paraphrasing, use your own interpretation of the source's ideas and include an explanation of how these ideas relate to the topic you are discussing.

Adapted from Walden University

ADDITIONAL PLAGIARISM CONCEPTS TO CONSIDER

Pay special attention to the abstract, introduction, and discussion sections, and **use your own words and phrasing**.

Simply replacing one or two words or replacing a keyword with a synonym is **not** sufficient paraphrasing.

You **must** appropriately cite any external resources for your work, including images and content from the internet.

Just because you can find it on the internet does **not** mean it is "common knowledge," and therefore, plagiarism rules apply.

It is essential to distinguish between original content and cited material in your writing, even if it means repeating citations from the same source multiple times within a paragraph; clarity regarding the sourced information must be maintained.

Avoid lengthy and excessive use of direct quotations.

Librarians are valuable for advice and additional resources involving citation help and avoiding plagiarism.

Review and consult multiple reliable sources in your research.

There are many free plagiarism modules to learn how to avoid inadvertent plagiarism, such as plagiarism.org.

Excessive use of quotations and paraphrasing without offering original insights reflects poorly on the author, suggesting the author does not have a genuine understanding of the subject matter.

The Academy's journals, [Clinical Insights in Eyecare](#) and [Optometry and Vision Science](#) have their own plagiarism policies.