

# Understanding Plagiarism

**Plagiarism: Presenting another person's ideas as your own without clearly giving that individual credit.**

## INTENT

Whether you mean it or not, plagiarism can happen and the consequences are the same.

### INTENTIONAL PLAGIARISM

Submitting a paper written by a friend.

Buying a paper online.

Copy and pasting an essay or a portion thereof from the web.

### UNINTENTIONAL PLAGIARISM

Improperly paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting another's idea (e.g., forgetting to include quotation marks around a direct quote).

Improperly citing another's thought or idea (e.g., attributing a quotation to the incorrect author).

## CITATION NECESSARY

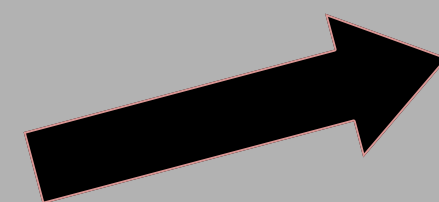
Using the thought or idea of another person whether from a written work, lecture, or conversation.

Using media of any kind such as photos, maps, charts, graphs, cartoons, videos, podcasts, or songs.



## CITATION NOT NECESSARY

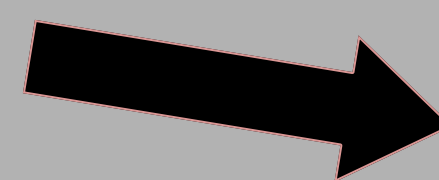
You do not need to acknowledge materials if the information you are using is **COMMON KNOWLEDGE**. Common knowledge is considered to be well-known facts that are widely available in a variety of reference resources or data that you have recorded and gathered yourself.



### COMMON KNOWLEDGE

George Washington was the first president of the United States.

*No citation required.*



### NOT COMMON KNOWLEDGE

George Washington lost more battles than any other general in modern history.

*A citation is required.*

In the book, *His Excellency: George Washington*, Joseph J. Ellis notes that Washington lost more battles than any victorious general in modern history (74).



## THINK ABOUT THE VALUE OF CITING SOURCES!

Giving credit where credit is due.

Pointing the reader to your resources.

When in doubt, cite it!

## CONSEQUENCES

Compromising your academic integrity.

Damaging your academic reputation and credibility.

Being expelled from school.

Failing the class.

Failing the assignment.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

**Academic integrity** is the principle of properly acknowledging the words and ideas of others by clearly differentiating them from your own. The sources that are borrowed from another, whether ideas, text, photos or graphics, are the **intellectual property** of the authors and the materials are **copyrighted**. You are **fulfilling your ethical and legal obligations** to the owner of that intellectual property. Do not compromise your academic integrity!