Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism

○ Understand what plagiarism is so you will be less likely to accidentally engage in it.

○ Start your research as soon as you get the assignment. It is much more tempting to plagiarize in a time crunch.

○ If you use ideas, theories, or words from others that do not come from common knowledge (e.g. a mile is 5280 feet) make sure to cite where you found those ideas.

○ When using electronic information, read the material and then turn away from the computer and write in your own words the idea you would like to use from the source. This technique also works when you are using a book, journal, or other print materials.

○ As you are taking notes from sources (e.g. articles, book) use highlighters. Mark quotes in pink, paraphrases in yellow, summaries in blue, etc.

○ If you are not sure if you have paraphrased correctly, bring your work and a copy of the source material to a librarian, the writing center, or your professor for their judgment.

○ Have a running bibliography or works cited page, add sources as you include them in your paper.

○ Place your text and the original source text side by side to make sure they are different and you are not copying word for word or paraphrasing incorrectly.

○ In the text of your paper refer to the author, institution, journal, etc. before writing the idea. (e.g. In a recent Pew study…; As stated in the most recent The New England Journal of Medicine…).

○ Paraphrase properly. Two good Web sites on this topic are:

    http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r_paraphr.html
    http://condor.stcloudstate.edu/~scogdill/339/paraphra.html

○ If you are unsure, it is best to cite. Use one of the style sheets found at:

    http://cobyweb.cobleskill.edu/Library/pages/guides/faculty/handouts.asp

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