



Avoiding Plagiarism for Physicists

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<http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/stemrcr>

mentoring

ethics

**dual use
technology**

**human/
animal
subjects**

research

integrity

**data
management**

peer review

**data
falsification**

**research
misconduct**

plagiarism

**conflict of
interest**

collaboration

**fabrication
of data**

authorship

e-science



PLAGIARISM

- What is it?
- Why should you care?
- How can you avoid it?



NSF Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Mandate

- Each institution needs to show a plan for RCR training for students and postdocs who receive NSF funding





American Physical Society

APS Guidelines for Professional Conduct

“Science is best advanced when there is mutual trust, based upon honest behavior, throughout the community. Acts of deception, or any other acts that deliberately compromise the advancement of science, are unacceptable.”

“Plagiarism constitutes unethical scientific behavior and is never acceptable. Proper acknowledgement of the work of others used in a research project must always be given. Further, it is the obligation of each author to provide prompt retractions or corrections of errors in published works.”



UF Honor Code

- On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:
- **"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."**
- (3) VIOLATIONS OF THE STUDENT HONOR CODE.
- (a) Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:
 - 1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
 - 2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.
- Online: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> (Accessed: July 27, 2009)



Awareness & Attitude

- How do you define plagiarism?
- Why do people plagiarize?
 - *not interested in the assignment*
 - *lack time to complete an assignment thoroughly*
 - *not comfortable/knowledgeable with the topic*
 - *don't know the rules for citing properly*



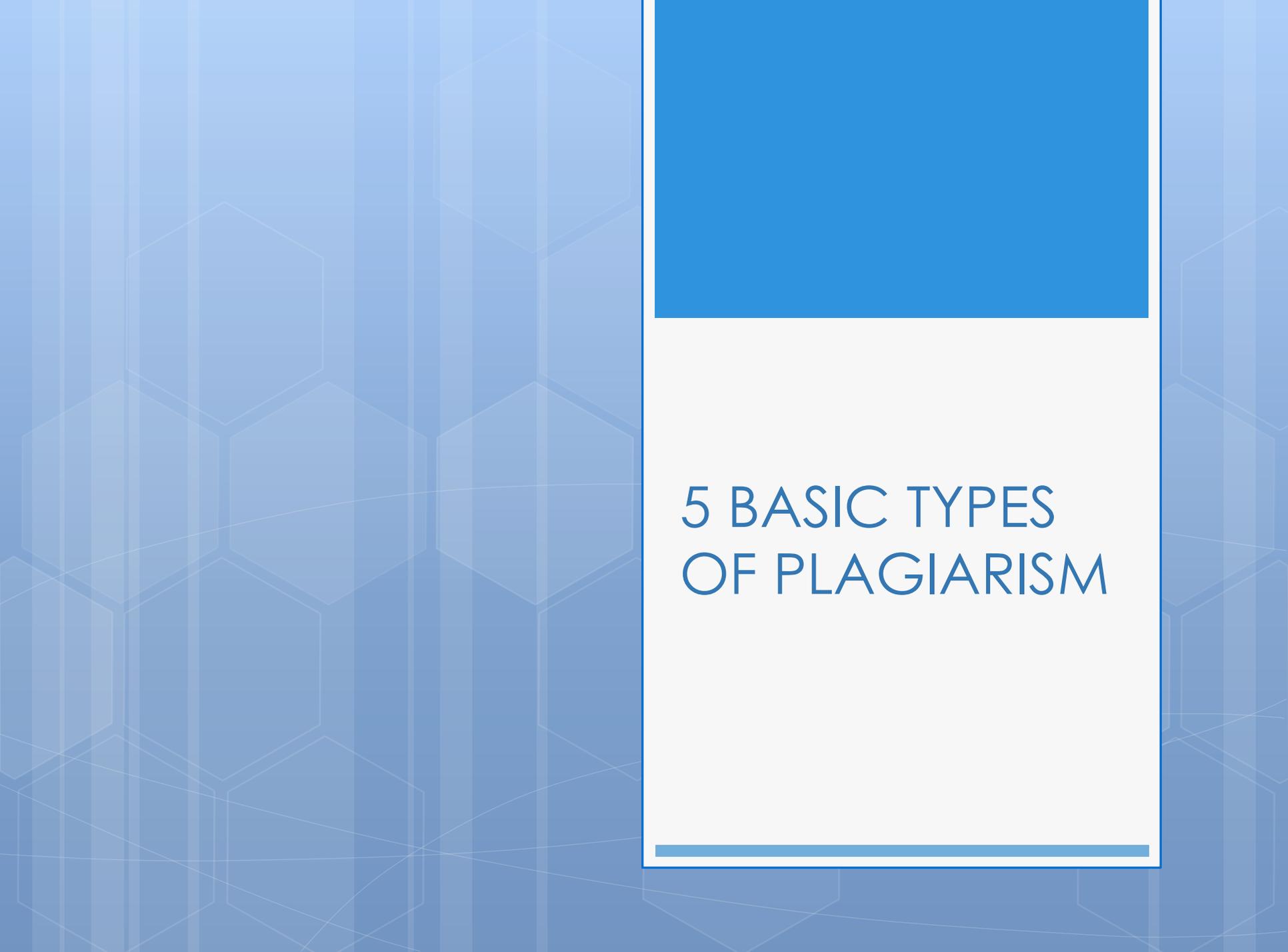
Examples in Science

- [Retraction Watch](#) monitors papers retracted for ethical violations
- [Science Direct](#) – search for retracted



Who does plagiarism affect?





5 BASIC TYPES OF PLAGIARISM



1. STEALING

- This is exactly what it sounds like!
- If you take a sentence, or even a unique turn of phrase, and pass it off as your own, this is stealing.



Integrity

This the president of Jacksonville State University William Meehan's dissertation. Portions highlighted in yellow are copied verbatim from Carl Boening's dissertation.



JSU and UA say that this is not plagiarism.

If this isn't plagiarism...

What does plagiarism look like?

William Meehan's dissertation. Highlights are copied verbatim from Carl Boening's dissertation.

[On Vizworld, accessed on 3 June 2009
<http://www.vizworld.com/2009/06/what-does-plagiarism-look-like/>]



2. INSUFFICIENT PARAPHRASING

- Taking an author's words and changing them slightly, without quoting the actual text is plagiarism.
- Say it entirely in your own words, otherwise put the author's text in quotes and reference the source.
- Instructors know when this happens because everyone has their own style of writing and seeing styles change throughout a document is a red flag that plagiarism has occurred.



Example

- **"This result calls into question the assumption that organisms—even if present—necessarily played an essential role in determining stromatolite morphology during times when precipitation at the sea floor was common, such as the earlier Precambrian."** (Grotzinger & Rothman, *Nature*, 1997).
- Grotzinger and Rothman's (1997) results call into question the assumption that organisms play an essential role in determining stromatolite morphology during the earlier Precambrian.



3. PATCHWRITING

- Using words and phrases from a source text (that may or may not be acknowledged), and patching them together into new sentences.

Tricky to
avoid!





4. MISQUOTING

- When you quote another author in your own work, always be sure to quote exactly what was said.
- **Never** change or misrepresent another's words to make your own argument stronger.

Angelou Says MLK Memorial Change Makes Him Look Like "Arrogant Twit"

Last-second tweak forced designers to paraphrase civil rights icon's "drum major" quote.

By Josh Voorhees | Posted Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011, at 10:45 AM ET

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Photo by Mladen Antonov/AFP/Getty Images. (People visit the Martin Luther King sculpture on August, 26, 20011 in Washington DC.)

Maya Angelou has a beef with the designers of the new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C. She says that a decision to paraphrase one of the two quotes that appear on the statue makes the civil rights icon look like "an arrogant twit."

King delivered the full quote in question on Feb, 1968, two months before he was assassinated. "If you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice," King told the congregation at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. "Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter."



5. SELF-PLAGIARISM

- You can not reuse/recycle your own paper for use in another paper or assignment without explicit permission from the instructor

And NEVER for publication!!

- This is plagiarism and it's possible to plagiarize yourself if you don't give credit to your own work.
- Example:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1566119905000297>



Common Knowledge?

- Stats or data that can be easily found in several ordinary sources (and do not vary) do not have to be cited.
- Judgment call: recognizing indisputable facts as well as knowing your audience's knowledge base
- *Not sure? Ask your advisor or instructor!*



What about non-text?

- Images and computer codes matter too!
 - Any usage of someone else's work without giving credit is plagiarism
 - Know usage/license rights



COMMON MISTAKES

- Cut & paste from electronic/Internet sources without using quotes or properly citing the source.
- Download audio, visual, or arts without proper permission. (Copyright issues)
- Cite statistics/facts without the source, unless they are common knowledge.



Intentional or Unintentional
Plagiarism = Dishonesty



Avoiding Plagiarism Basic Guidelines

- 2/3 your words, 1/3 authors for summarizing safety
- Even if you don't use words verbatim, you must cite if you use the author's ideas
- If you reference a scientific concept that is not commonly known, cite the source
- You do not need to cite if you are using universally understood concepts or common knowledge
- When in doubt, **CITE**

[Adapted in part from PLAGIARISM. What is it? [Accessed 8 June 2009, <http://bahealthsci.php.ufl.edu/tools/PLAGIARISM.ppt> - 2008-09-05]



Why do we cite?

- To build context for yourself and for your readers
 - to show that you have investigated the topic
- To verify facts
- To track the evolution and influence of ideas across scholars, cultures, and time
 - to create a foundation for your opinions
- To distinguish between your ideas and someone else's
- To enable your reader to easily track your source material, whether to verify it or to find more info



How to Cite?

- Know your citation style
- Use reference software – RefWorks or Endnote (can export BibTeX)



ANTI-PLAGIARISM SERVICES

- Turnitin
 - <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/Turnitin>
- iThenticate
 - <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help/IThenticate>
- Responsible Conduct of STEM Research
 - <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/stemrcr>