
Answer Guide and Explanations

Aiming for Integrity Quiz: How Well Do You Know Plagiarism?

This guide provides the answers (and answer explanations) to the questions in the [Turnitin "Aiming for Integrity Quiz"](#) on plagiarism.

1. What best describes the rightness or wrongness of plagiarism?

- Always wrong because it is theft and fraud
- Plagiarism is not a right or wrong kind of thing
- In some situations, it is OK
- There is nothing wrong with it

Explanation: Plagiarism is an act of stealing, because another person's work is taken without permission and without giving the original writer due credit. It is fraud because the plagiarist is misrepresenting who created the work.

2. Which of the following is not an example of plagiarism?

- Changing a few words of a paragraph someone else wrote
- Borrowing an existing idea and presenting it as a new idea
- Providing the full source for a quotation
- Translating others' written work into another language without citation
- None of the above

Explanation: Plagiarism is essentially taking an existing work and passing it off as original without crediting the source. Choice C is the only example that is not an example of plagiarism, as long as the citation is done correctly. *Source: Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, Plagiarism.org*

3. It is acceptable to copy-and-paste a sentence written by someone else into your paper and simply add quotation marks around it.

- True
- False

Explanation: To show proper attribution, a writer must put quotation marks around the quoted passage and add a corresponding reference in MLA, APA, or any other format that is accepted. Just adding quotation marks around a paragraph is NOT enough.

4. If you forget to cite a source in your paper, that is still plagiarism.

True False

Explanation: An act of plagiarism is plagiarism, regardless of whether it was intentional or unintentional. Therefore, students are highly encouraged to check through and proofread their papers to make sure that every outside source is given proper citation.

5. Plagiarism is a major concern only in education.

True False

Explanation: Plagiarism is a major concern in many parts of society outside of the classroom. Novelists, journalists, scientists and researchers, business people, and politicians are all susceptible to plagiarism, and the consequences can be harmful if they do plagiarize. Proper citation in news articles, research studies, or reports intended to inform business and legislation allows people to confirm the information they receive, helping them avoid incorrect or ineffective decisions.

6. Even though no one may be harmed by it, plagiarism is still unethical.

True False

Explanation: Plagiarism, and cheating in general, is unethical. Since it is the same as lying and fraud, it can negatively affect other people. Those who cheat gain unfair advantages that put honest people into positions of extra pressure and stress. Those whose materials have been plagiarized are also not being given their fair due or recognition.

7. Which of the following requires proper citation?

When I include my own ideas that are unique to the paper I am writing.

When I refer to my own papers that I have previously written.

None of the above

Explanation: The first option does NOT require citation since it is a case where one is writing ideas that are original. Since these ideas are being introduced for the first time in that work, and no where else, there is no other source to cite.

The second option requires citation. Passing off some of your previous writing as original, without citing the original work, is often called self-plagiarism, or duplication. A writer has the responsibility to indicate whether or not the material has been used before, particularly within scholarly or professional publishing.

8. Which of the following requires proper citation?

✓ When using information from crowd-sourced sources, like Wikipedia, because they are in the public domain.

✗ When using information that is considered common knowledge or widely accessible (for example: most of the Earth's surface is water).

✗ None of the Above

Explanation: The first option requires citation. Social sites still need to be cited or referenced, even if they are in the public domain and created by many people. If you take an idea or text from an outside source, you should properly cite it, no matter where it comes from. (Also, many instructors do not consider Wikipedia to be a reputable source, so do your research!)

The second option does not require citation because there is no need to cite common knowledge. The Purdue Online Writing Lab says that information can be considered common knowledge if it is "undocumented in at least five credible sources," if it is something that readers within a group or discipline are likely to understand, and if it is contained in a general reference source.

Source: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>

9. To paraphrase properly, you need to:

✗ Change a few words in the text and cite it to make it your own.

✗ Put quotation marks around the text and cite it.

✗ Use only the idea from the text without citing it.

✓ Summarize the text in your own words and cite it.

Explanation: Proper paraphrasing requires writing an original summary and following it up with proper citation (i.e., using quotes and providing references according to an acceptable citation format). The first and second options show how paraphrasing is often misinterpreted. Changing every few words is also detected by plagiarism software! As the third option indicates, ideas that come from other sources require attribution, even if the text is completely changed.

10. Say you found two papers about the same research: Paper A is the original finding; Paper B is an analysis that references Paper A. You use a section of the analysis from Paper B. Which paper do you cite?

✗ Paper A

✗ Paper B

✓ Both

Explanation: Paper B in this situation is called a "secondary source." Secondary sources should be used as sparingly as possible, and mostly in situations where the original source is inaccessible. In your citation, you will reference Paper A, followed by "as cited in Paper B," providing proper attribution to both sources. However, if you only use information from Paper A, then you only need to cite that source.

11. Which of the following is NOT a true purpose for citation?

- Citation recognizes the authors you are referencing.
- Citation is used to distribute money for royalties.
- Citation allows your readers to confirm that you aren't just "making stuff up."

Explanation: Proper citation practices tell your audience the sources of your information and writing. Knowing your sources helps your readers better understand the arguments or positions you are making. They will compare your statements to what your sources have said and determine how your writing relates to those sources. Proper citation also allows you to back up your positions, by providing additional evidence and arguments from your sources that have said similar things. Citation also allows your audience to confirm that what you are saying is, indeed, valid and true. Citation is used to provide appropriate credit to those you are relying upon to make your arguments, but it does not serve any formal royalties system (that happens in other ways).

12. For a class assignment that students are to complete individually, Chi and Juan decide to collaborate. Chi compiles research notes while Juan identifies the main findings, and both write their own original research papers. Is this:

- Unethical collaboration
- Plagiarism
- Both unethical collaboration and plagiarism
- Acceptable collaboration

Explanation: This is an example of both unethical collaboration and plagiarism. Individual assignments do not involve collaboration unless authorized by the instructor. A question that any writer should ask him or herself is: "Am I trying to pass off others' work and taking credit for it as my own?" This situation becomes clear in that respect. Chi and Juan are passing off the research, the ideas and main findings as their own individual original work without providing attribution to the other.

13. Which of the following are realistic consequences of plagiarism?

- Ruined reputation
- Being suspended or expelled from school
- Losing money or job
- Being sued or having to face jail time
- All of the above
- Only the top two choices

Explanation: These consequences demonstrate that plagiarism is a serious offense and should be avoided at all costs. There have been several journalists in recent history that have had their reputations ruined because they stole the work from others. This act of theft makes them look not credible, since it appears they can't do their own work. In education, original work is of strong value and since plagiarism and cheating give those who do it an unfair advantage over other students, suspensions and expulsions are common consequences. Plagiarism can lead businesses and other organizations to make poor decisions, which may end up in loss of money or harm to individuals. Therefore, these organizations usually have a valid claim by which to sue or press charges against the plagiarists.