Plagiarism

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the *intentional* or *unintentional* use of another’s intellectual property without appropriate acknowledgement.

Intellectual Property is original creative work manifested in a tangible form that can be legally protected, e.g. by a patent, trademark, or copyright.

Why is citation so important?
Who cares if I don’t *cite* my sources?

Believe it or not, citing your sources is VERY important, so that:
- Others can find your research
- Authors are properly acknowledged
- Readers can distinguish between which ideas are yours and which are someone else’s

Why would it be important for others to find my research?

- Someone who reads your paper may become interested in your topic and wish to read more!
- With appropriate source citation, that reader can trace your research steps.
So, what if I don’t cite?

What’s anyone going to do about it?

According to the Stark State College of Technology’s Student Handbook…

- “For a first time offense, a grade of F may be issued for the project, paper, test, or whatever assignment in which cheating has occurred.
- For a second offense, not necessarily in the same course, a grade of F will be issued for the course in which cheating has occurred.
- Any student, who has been involved in three cheating offenses, not necessarily in the same course or term, will be dismissed from the College immediately for one full term.
- Upon readmission to the College, any future cheating offense will cause the student to be dismissed immediately with no right to readmission.”


So, how do I Avoid Violating Plagiarism rules?

There are two types of citations to consider.

Paraphrasing

- Paraphrasing is the summarizing of ideas or points made by the author.
- This is not merely “changing a few words” of an author’s work; rather, it is a summary, in your own words, of an author’s ideas.

When in doubt Cite, Cite, Cite!
Direct Quote

- Directly quoting is when you write an author’s ideas word for word.
- Any time you use any of the author’s words, you need to quote them directly.

Citations are often needed within your work to add integrity to your argument. Having other credible sources to back up your ideas will give your writing more depth. So, take the added time to cite your sources properly.