

Cite it? Game

Directions/How to play: Break up into small teams. The FIG mentor is the emcee. The Mentor should ask one question at a time, giving the teams 1 minute to discuss and decide on an answer. At the end of one minute, each team tells their answer and why. The mentor then tells the correct answer and why and opens up the floor for discussion. The mentor keeps track of which teams get questions correct and the team with the most correct answer at the end wins. The mentor can provide a prize for the winning team if s/he wishes. **Time:** 15 minutes **Questions:**

During the course of your research, you come across an idea that you use in your paper. You don't use the author's exact words or even paraphrase – just the idea. Cite it?

Answer: yes

Notes: Other people's words aren't the only thing you need to cite. You also need to cite ideas. If you paraphrase, you also need to cite it. Keep in mind that there are no "tricks" to paraphrasing such as replacing every 3rd word with your own. The Undergraduate Writing Center has handouts about paraphrasing online and the Center is available to help any undergraduate with any writing project.

You are writing a paper for your History class about World War II and mention that the US entered the war after Pearl Harbor was bombed. Cite it?

Answer: no

Notes: You don't have to cite this because it is common knowledge. Defining common knowledge can be tricky, though. For example, if you are taking a class outside of your major, what may be common knowledge to people in the major isn't common knowledge to you. Or, in this example, it may be common knowledge for an American student but not necessarily for an international student. A good rule of thumb is – when in doubt, cite it!

You are doing a presentation for your Chemistry class and use an image of the Periodic Table you found on a government web site. Cite it?

Answer: yes

Notes: You have to cite images just as you would cite words. Even though this is a government website and thus in the public domain (owned by the public), and even though it is the periodic table which you see in many science classrooms, it needs to be cited. One reason for citing is so that the person watching your presentation or reading your work knows where your information came from. If this periodic table had an error in it and you didn't cite it, they might think you created it and made a mistake, for example.

During a lecture in your RTF class, your professor mentions the results of a study she is about to publish about the impact of television on toddlers. You use the information in your paper for that class. Cite it?

Answer: yes

Notes: Even though it is unpublished and recently came up in a class lecture, you still need to cite it because it is someone else's work. Even though the professor knows what you are talking about because it is her study, you still need to cite it because it isn't your work or your idea.

You are writing a paper for your Psychology class about students' use of hotlines. You do a survey on campus as part of your research and use the results in your paper. Cite it?

Answer: no (usually)

Notes: If it is your original research, you don't have to cite it. But, if you published this research elsewhere first, you do have to cite it even though it may seem odd to cite yourself.

Inspired by quizzes and activities in: Harris, Robert A. *The Plagiarism Handbook: Strategies for Preventing, Detecting, and Dealing with Plagiarism.* Los Angeles: Pycszak, 2001.

<https://webpace.utexas.edu/mes657/PlagiarismforFIGs.pdf>

Scenarios Game

Directions: The FIG mentor breaks the FIG into smaller discussion groups and each group discusses a scenario for a few minutes. They should answer the questions - Is this plagiarism or not? Why or why not? Then each group reports out on their scenario and discusses it with the larger class. Depending on the amount of time you have and the size of your FIG class, you can use as many groups and scenarios as would work. There are 4 to choose from. **Time:** 15 minutes

Scenarios:

You hear two people talking about a class that you also happen to be in. The first took the class the previous year, and says the professor never changes the assignment. It's a class of 200, and everyone has to write a paper on the same topic. The first person offers her friend the paper she used the year before to turn in as his own.

Notes: Yes, this is plagiarism. Some people may think something is plagiarism only if the original work was published on a web site or in a journal, magazine, newspaper, book, etc. but you can plagiarize unpublished materials too. Some people also may think that because the friend gave permission to use her work, it isn't plagiarized. But that isn't true either. Any time you use someone else's work, whether it was formally published or not, you need to cite it. If you put your name on work that isn't your own, which is what the student in this scenario would be doing if he used his friend's paper, you are claiming that you did the work and that clearly isn't the case. Using a friend's paper is just like buying a paper online and putting your name on it even though you didn't write it. The only difference is that it doesn't cost you any money.

You receive your assignment for a class, and realize that you can write your paper on the same topic that you wrote on for another class last semester. Because of the requirements of the assignment, the focus of the paper will be different, but you can use many of the same sources you already read just two months ago.

Notes: No, this is not plagiarism. Using the same sources to support or inform your arguments in the new paper does not constitute plagiarism. If you were to incorporate sections of your old paper into your new paper without citing the previous paper, you would be committing self-plagiarism by not acknowledging your own earlier work, regardless of whether or not that work was published. Self-plagiarism can be avoided by not submitting the same paper for different courses and by providing citations to your previous work if it's necessary to use parts of it in a newer work. Submitting the same paper for different courses without the prior permission of both course instructors constitutes scholastic dishonesty at the University of Texas [Section 11-802(b) of the *Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities*].

You are taking an introductory sociology course that requires a seven-page research paper. You visit the reference desk at the library and get help finding articles on your topic in online databases from academic journals in the field. You copy and paste the most interesting parts of the articles into your paper without putting those parts in quotes or providing a parenthetical citation for the source, but you do list the articles in your bibliography at the end of the paper.

Notes: Yes, it is plagiarism. You've begun the process of properly documenting your sources by creating a bibliography/works cited list, but you didn't do everything necessary. If you cut and paste, you are directly quoting and need to put quotation marks around the quote so the reader knows those aren't your words. Then you have to add a citation within the body of the paper for that quote. Each style guide has a different approach. Some use footnotes or endnotes, where you insert a number after the quote and then put the full citation for the quote either in a footnote at the bottom of the page or in an endnote at the end of the paper. For other styles, such as MLA and APA, which are frequently used on campus, you use what are known as parenthetical citations. Right after the quote, you put the source and page numbers in parentheses. Even if you didn't directly quote, but paraphrased, you would need to put citations within the body of the paper any place you paraphrased. Another thing to keep in mind is that it is fine to ask for research help from a librarian, as the person in this scenario did. If they help you find sources for your research, you aren't plagiarizing or cheating in any way.

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In your psychology class, you were given an assignment to research 10 different phobias and write a paragraph explaining each fear. When you're standing in line to turn in your paper, you hear the person behind you tell her friend, "My sister's a psychologist, so I just emailed her and she wrote back with the answers."

Notes: Yes, this is plagiarism. The person turning in the answers written by her sister is representing her sister's work as her own without attributing the material to her sister. Anytime you use someone else's words, you are required to cite the source of that information, even if it was provided through an email by a family member. This is also a case of unauthorized collaboration. The work was assigned to the student to be done individually, but the student collaborated on the assignment with her sister without the authority to do so from the professor. Unauthorized collaboration is a form of scholastic dishonesty that carries the same consequences as plagiarism. If you're ever unsure of the resources that are appropriate to use when completing an assignment, just ask your professor.

Inspired by quizzes and activities in: Harris, Robert A. *The Plagiarism Handbook: Strategies for Preventing, Detecting, and Dealing with Plagiarism*. Los Angeles: Pyczak, 2001.

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Then maybe follow up with a fact sheet of whom and where they can get help.