

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the **unattributed** (not referenced) use of someone else's words, creations, ideas, arguments, etc. as your own work.



TIP

Plagiarism is a form of **academic misconduct** that is taken very seriously at UWA. See the [UWA page on student conduct](#) for information about the university's expectations and policies relating to academic integrity.

Examples of plagiarism

Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) the following behaviours:

- **Inappropriate paraphrasing:** the use of 'too close' or extensive paraphrases;
- **Collusion:** presenting someone else's work as your own. This includes buying or selling assignments, excessive editing by an editor (paid or unpaid) and submitting an assignment written by someone else (even if they have given you permission to use their work);
- **Inadequate / incorrect referencing:** this might be referencing in the wrong place or citing sources you haven't read; and
- **Self-plagiarism:** submitting the same work for more than one assignment.

How do you attribute use?

You can attribute use by **referencing** the work of others (e.g. words, creations, ideas or diagrams) that you have drawn on in your own assignment or thesis.

How do you reference?

You can use either footnotes (e.g. ¹) or in-text citations (e.g. Jones 2011) to link the work of others to your own ideas throughout your assignment.

Find out which referencing style is used in your discipline and follow the particular rules for that style.

TIP

The UWA Library website has a [range of guides](#) for the most commonly used referencing styles at the University.

What needs to be referenced?

All works (e.g. books and articles, but also diagrams, images, films and creative works), whatever their source, must be attributed to their creator/author.



Why is it necessary to reference?

In an academic setting there are a number of reasons for referencing:

- It shows your reader **what you have read** on the topic;
- It lends **credibility** to your position;
- It enables the reader to **locate sources** mentioned in your paper if they want to follow up those sources;
- It is the **accepted way** to acknowledge sources in an academic context; and
- It means you are complying with **UWA's policies** on ethical scholarship.

What information should you cite?

The exact information required differs between referencing styles. However, bibliographic information usually includes:

- Surname, first name or initial of author(s);
- Date of publication;
- Title (e.g. of journal article, book chapter, journal, book, film);
- Volume, edition and page numbers of articles; and
- If web-based material, the URL and date the text was accessed from the web.

TIP

Consider the ideas in your assignment as part of a conversation with other authors and thinkers. Then it will seem natural to show (by referencing correctly) how your ideas build on, compare with, differ from and/or are influenced by theirs.

Refer to specific referencing guides on the UWA Library website for further information.

TIP for more information.

Bibliographic software (e.g. Endnote, Mendely and Zotero) allows you to keep a database of the sources you have read and makes it easier to reference correctly.

All UWA students can download Endnote for no charge from the UWA Library website. For more information, see the [Library's EndNote Survival Guide](#).

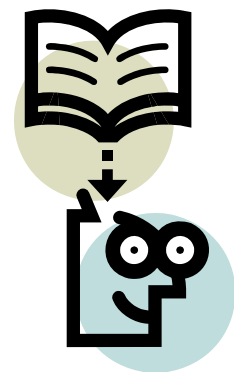
Revision quiz

Answer true or false and test your knowledge about plagiarism:

1. If you copy a friend's work with their permission and submit it, it is not plagiarism.
2. Plagiarism is the unattributed (not referenced) use of someone else's words or ideas as your own.
3. You don't need to reference graphics, illustrations or diagrams.
4. Referencing in the wrong place is not plagiarism.
5. Books, dissertations and journal articles are always referenced exactly the same as each other.
6. You don't need to reference material found on the internet .
7. Direct quotes and paraphrases need to be referenced.
8. Accurate and consistent referencing means you are complying with UWA's policies on ethical scholarship.

Answers below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| T | 8 |
| T | 7 |
| F | 6 |
| F | 5 |
| F | 4 |
| F | 3 |
| T | 2 |
| F | 1 |



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