THE WRITING CENTER
AT OSU-LIMA
PRESENTS:

Plagiarism

HOW TO AVOID BEING A COPY-CAT
“So, what’s plagiarism?”

According to The Ohio State University at Lima Student Guidelines:

“Plagiarism is the act of using the ideas and/or the expressions of another and representing them as your own. It is a kind of cheating, and thus a form of academic misconduct.”
“OK, but what does that mean?”

- Plagiarism is using someone else’s
  - words,
  - data,
  - information,
  - images,
  without crediting the original source.

Basically, if you didn’t come up with it yourself (and it’s not common knowledge), you must cite it!
"What happens if I don't cite?"

According to OSU’s Code of Student Conduct, plagiarism is considered academic misconduct and is **not tolerated**!

> “Whenever a member of the faculty suspects a case of academic misconduct in a class, he or she is **required to report it to the Associate Dean** and to have it sent to the Committee On Academic Misconduct in Columbus (COAM) . . . . **Faculty are not allowed to issue sanctions** for any academic misconduct they might suspect.”

So, if you plagiarize material, your professor has **no choice**—he or she must turn you in!

(And trust us...plagiarism hearings are not pleasant. You could end up with a permanent mark on your record. You could even be expelled. So, please, pay attention to what you’re about to see. )
“But how do I avoid plagiarism?”

• **Do not** take an essay from an online site or book. This is intentional plagiarism.
  • This may be tempting because it is easy to do, but you are likely to be caught and it defeats the purpose of an education.

**AVOID THESE ACTIONS!**
“But how do I avoid plagiarism?”

First, it’s important to keep track of your research.

- As you do your research and find information, keep track of citation information on a note card and/or Word document.

- Be sure to record where and how you found your information so that you can find it easily in the future!
Then, be careful to cite each source carefully as you write the paper.

- Put quotation marks around text that you copy word-for-word from the original source.

- Be sure to provide an in-text citation for any information that you allude to or paraphrase!
"How do I paraphrase correctly?"

Good question. Let’s try an example.

Here’s the ORIGINAL text, from page 1 of Lizzie Borden: A Case Book of Family and Crime in the 1890s by Joyce Williams et al.:

“The rise of industry, the growth of cities, and the expansion of the population were the three great developments of late nineteenth century American history. As new, larger, steam-powered factories became a feature of the American landscape in the East, they transformed farm hands into industrial laborers, and provided jobs for a rising tide of immigrants. With industry came urbanization the growth of large cities (like Fall River, Massachusetts, where the Bordens lived) which became the centers of production as well as of commerce and trade.”

Now let’s look at some examples of good and bad paraphrases of this text...
What makes this passage plagiarism?

1. The writer has only changed around a few words and phrases or reordered the sentences.

2. The writer has failed to cite a source for any of the ideas or facts.

If you do either of the above things, you are plagiarizing!

Information and examples from http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
Fall River, where the Borden family lived, was typical of northeastern industrial cities of the nineteenth century. Steam-powered production had shifted labor from agriculture to manufacturing, and as immigrants arrived in the US, they found work in these new factories. As a result, populations grew, and large urban areas arose. Fall River was one of these manufacturing and commercial centers (Williams 1).

What makes this an acceptable paraphrase?

1. It accurately relays the original information.
2. It uses the writer’s own words
3. It lets the reader know the source of the original information.
Fall River, where the Borden family lived, was typical of northeastern industrial cities of the nineteenth century. As steam-powered production shifted labor from agriculture to manufacturing, the demand for workers "transformed farm hands into industrial laborers," and created jobs for immigrants. In turn, growing populations increased the size of urban areas. Fall River was one of these hubs "which became the centers of production as well as of commerce and trade" (Williams 1).

Why does this work?

1. It records the information in the original passage accurately.
2. It gives credit for the ideas in the passage.
3. The writer indicated which part is taken directly from her source by putting the passage in quotation marks and citing the page number.
NOTE: If the writer had used the highlighted phrases or sentences in her own paper without putting quotation marks around them, she would be plagiarizing!

Using another person’s phrases or sentences without putting quotation marks around them is considered plagiarism...even if the writer cites in her own text the source of the phrases or sentences she has quoted.