

Possible Syllabi Statements to Address Plagiarism

Short and to the point:

Plagiarism in this class is unacceptable. Accidental or willful use of someone else's words, ideas, or evidence without attribution will be penalized by a failing grade on the paper, a failing grade in the course, and/or referral to the Dean of Students.

A longer statement that defines the term:

Maintaining ownership of your work is often a challenge when you are doing research and writing papers using multiple sources. Intentional plagiarism is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism occurs when you accidentally or purposefully do any of the following in an assignment:

- Use someone else's words either verbatim or almost verbatim without attribution,
- Use someone else's evidence, line of thinking, idea, without attribution,
- Turn in some else's work as your own, as in copying a peer's paper or purchasing a readymade paper ,
- Turn in previously submitted work as new work without instructor approval.

Make sure you understand what plagiarism is; some writers say "two words in conjunction from the original" without attribution is academically dishonest. Penalties for plagiarism may be any of the following, depending on the seriousness of the offense: (This is a larger list than necessary—taken from Internet suggestions from various institutions)

- Required revision of the assignment,
- A failing grade on the assignment with no make-up opportunity,
- A failing grade in the course,
- Notification of the Dean of the Division or Dean of Students,
- Attaching a letter to the college transcript,
- Expulsion from the college.

Something Borrowed:

The following is reported on the UC Berkeley web site. I like this as a department policy which, then, could appear on all instructor's syllabi. If we like this, we could get UC Berkeley's permission to borrow it. The English department received such permission to incorporate the UC Davis department handout on plagiarism for our use.

"All written work submitted in this course, except for acknowledged quotations, is to be expressed in your own words. It should also be constructed upon a plan of

your devising. Work copied from a book, from another student's paper, or from any other source is not acceptable. The submission of such copied work will, under University rules, render the offending student subject to an F grade for the work in question or for the whole course, and will also make him/her liable for referral to the Director of the Office of Student Activities and Programs for further disciplinary action.

Moderate quotation for illustrative ends is often advantageous. Such passages must be placed within quotation marks or otherwise identified. Moreover, if reliance is placed upon a particular work for ideas, acknowledgment must be made. The instructor will be glad to answer questions as to the proper use of footnotes and citations for identification of sources."