Plagiarism and Cheating

At Crowder College plagiarism, like other forms of academic dishonesty, warrants an ‘F’ on first offense for that assignment or test, an ‘F’ in the entire class on second offense, and permanent expulsion from the college on the third offense. All forms of academic dishonesty are reported to the Dean of Instruction’s Office for tracking.

Plagiarism is when a writer uses another person’s work without giving credit to that person. It does not matter if the plagiarized material is from a generic Internet page or some other informal document.

There are two forms of plagiarism: intentional and unintentional. It doesn’t matter whether the person knowingly represented someone else’s work as his or her own or not; both forms of plagiarism must be avoided.

Intentional Plagiarism includes:

- Copying, buying, downloading or stealing from another source or person.
- This includes copying and pasting sections of research and plugging them into a paper. Even if an in-text (parenthetical) citation is present—if the original wording has not been summarized or paraphrased nor has it been identified as directly quoted material this information has been plagiarized.

Unintentional Plagiarism is often the result of the following:

- Reliance on the wrong reference guides. Use a university-level guide such as MLA or APA
- Unorganized Research Methods. Writers must carefully write down source information while gathering research. Also, as you write your paper plug in (in-text citations). Cite as you write!
- Misunderstanding the Rules of References. Cite your sources. If you are not certain whether the information is truly “common knowledge,” cite the information.
- Weak Essay-Writing Skills: It takes a lot of time and effort to restate/reword original information. Proper paraphrasing and summarizing require the writer to carefully restate the original version without changing the meaning. Writers using research must allow enough time to properly incorporate research into their papers.

Consequences of Plagiarism

Students must understand that plagiarism is a serious matter and the consequences for committing either form: intentional or unintentional are severe. Crowder College policy states that a paper or assignment (including a discussion board posting) containing plagiarism will receive an F. Depending on the nature of the assignment, the student may also fail the entire course. In addition, students caught plagiarizing will be reported to the instructional office as stated on the institutional syllabi. One final note, Crowder College instructors utilize a computer program that searches for plagiarized information.

Avoiding Plagiarism

- Basic facts are safe to use. Common knowledge is defined as basic information that appears in several general sources.
- Paraphrase/Summarize information in your own words AND cite this information.
- Always acknowledge your sources. When using research you must have both (in-text) citations AND a reference page.
Parenthetical Citations and Referencing

To avoid plagiarism when using outside sources in papers and essays; writers must do three things:

1) Restate the original passage: summarize, paraphrase or indicate as “quoted”
2) Provide parenthetical or in-text citations (within the paper)
3) Attach bibliography information (works cited/reference page)

Parenthetical Citations

- These go inside the paper’s text. It provides a minimal amount of reference information to indicate to the reader that the information came from an outside source.
- The bibliography information is placed in parenthesis; hence the name parenthetical citations.

Direct Quote

According to the CNN Website, “Spanish authorities have arrested five more people in connection with last week’s bombings of Madrid commuter trains, and five men previously in custody appeared in court as the death toll from those attacks rose to 202” (Williams A2).

Summary/Paraphrase

Madrid police officials report that ten men have been held as suspects involved in the March 11th train bombing that killed just over two hundred people (Williams A2).

Plagiarized Examples

Spanish authorities have arrested five more people in connection with last week's bombings of Madrid commuter trains, and five men previously in custody appeared in court as the death toll from those attacks rose to 202 (Williams A2).

*While the source is cited, this sample did not identify the information as directly quoted.

Madrid police officials report that ten men have been held as suspects involved in the March 11th train bombing that killed just over two hundred people.

*While this passage was restated, this sentence does not contain a parenthetical citation.

Bibliography Information: Works Cited

- The reference page contains all the detail specifics from the source. Students should refer to proper university-level reference guides in order to properly format the source details.
