INTRODUCTION TO PLAGIARISM

Source: University of Hong Kong
http://www0.hku.hk/plagiarism/
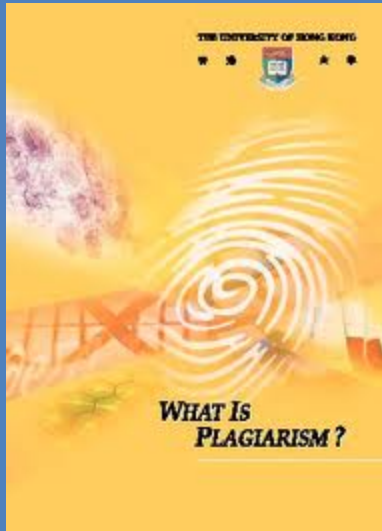
This booklet published by the University of Hong Kong is about plagiarism.

WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

Is this plagiarism?

Source: British Psychological Society http://bps-research-digest.blogspot.hk/2010/09/by-what-age-do-children-recognise-that.html

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic honesty is held in high regard at Yew Chung Community College. Students caught cheating, plagiarizing, or engaging in other acts of academic dishonesty will be subject to academic and/or administrative penalties, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion.
Because of the seriousness of the penalties associated with plagiarism, it is important that students take measures to familiarize themselves with what constitutes plagiarism so they can avoid it.

Source: University of Texas at Austin
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/

Source: Jonny Crook
http://www.jonnycrook.com/pages/plagiarism.html

What is plagiarism?

According to the Cambridge Dictionaries Online (2011), to plagiarize means "to use another person's idea or a part of their work and pretend that it is your own". Quite simply, plagiarism is the passing off of others' work, ideas, or intellectual property as one's own.
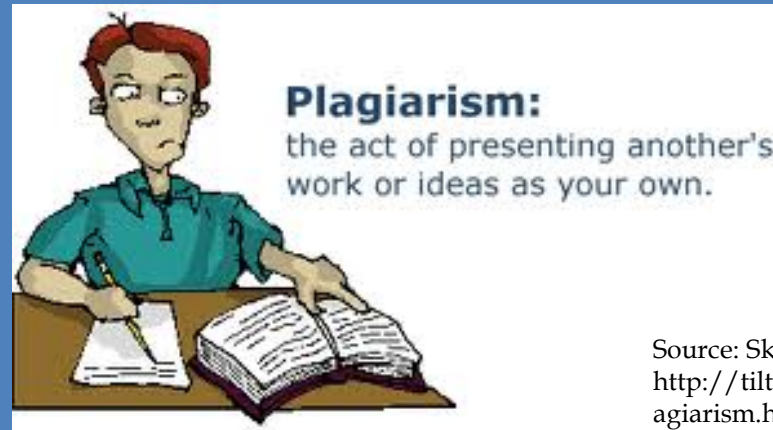
WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

STAMP IT OUT!

This includes, but is not limited to:

• Turning in a paper written by someone else for one's own grade

• Using someone else's exact words without quotes and citation

• Borrowing someone else's ideas without proper citation

• Relaying information learned directly from other sources, such as in interviews or email correspondences, as one's own knowledge

• Using images or materials created/prepared by others without permission

Plagiarism: the act of presenting another's work or ideas as your own.

Source: Skagit Valley College
http://tilt.library.skagit.edu/module4/plagiarism.htm

While most students understand that directly copying someone's words without quotes is plagiarism, some think that by simply paraphrasing the original source, plagiarism is avoided. This is not true. Even by changing someone else's words by paraphrasing, it is still plagiarism if it is not cited.

Source: Diane Mapes, msnbc.com contributor
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32657885/ns/technology_and_science-tech_and_gadgets/t/steal-story-beware-nets-plagiarism-cops/

Rules and Penalties

Shun and punish plagiarism and copying from others or the Internet. Reward reasoned critical thinking and writing.

Staff are expected to have zero tolerance for plagiarism or copying and to fail assignments based largely on these practices. Students who commit offences of this nature should be disciplined according to the College's disciplinary procedures.

Source: Montgomery College Libraries http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/sub1.aspx?id=18885

Source: JURRA http://jurralynn.wordpress.com/2010/05/22/plagiarism-is-a-dirty-green-creature-that-deserves-a-spartans-justice/

Staff are expected to respect the privacy and intellectual property of others.

Reasoned independent and critical thinking should be rewarded.

[Extracted from The College's Staff Handbook (2011-12), pp. 71-72]

How to avoid plagiarism?

Without citations, it will be assumed that the words and ideas are original to the author, thus it is critical that students use citations (such as MLA or APA style) any time words, ideas, or creations are referenced which are not the original product of the student.

See below for an example on using citations to avoid plagiarizing:

(**Original source**)
"Copyright originated not to protect the profits of authors from copyists, or to encourage creation, but rather as an instrument of government censorship. . . . Galileo's trial was, in an important way, an exercise in copyright enforcement by the Pope of Rome." from Boldrin, M., & Levine, D. K. (2008). *Against intellectual monopoly*. (p. 33). Cambridge Univ Pr.

(**Plagiarized paraphrase**)
"Copyright was not originally used to help creation or ensure artists could earn a living, but was actually used as a tool of censorship. In fact, Galileo's trial by the Pope of Rome was in many ways a test of copyright enforcement."

(**Acceptable paraphrase**)

"Copyright was not originally used to help creation or ensure artists could earn a living, but was actually used as a tool of censorship. In fact, Galileo's trial by the Pope of Rome was in many ways a test of copyright enforcement. (Boldrin & Levine, 2008, p. 33)"

Why is the first paraphrase plagiarized? Even though most of the words have been changed, the ideas expressed are still not original to the author, who has taken Boldrin and Levine's ideas and attempted to pass them off as his own. By simply adding a citation (APA shown) to the second paraphrase plagiarism is avoided by giving proper credit to the ideas referenced.

Students are advised to take strict sensitivity on the sources of their works. Any non-original writing without proper citation or paraphrasing will be considered as plagiarism.

Unintentional Plagiarism

"Even thought I listed my references...I did not cite them throughout the paper"

Source: Judicial Affairs Office
http://dsa.csupomona.edu/judicialaffairs/Videos.asp

Students are required to cite the sources always whenever they are using other persons' ideas in their assignments, homeworks or examination papers. There are various citation styles commonly adopted by different institutions around the world. Students may consult their instructors if they are not sure which style they are expected to use. Below are some of the commonly used styles:
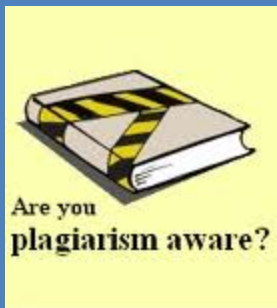
APA: http://www.apastyle.org/elecsource.html
MLA: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/
Chicago:
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

For further information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) maintains an excellent online resource on avoiding plagiarism as well as many other writing topics.

Other useful links:
http://www.plagiarism.org/
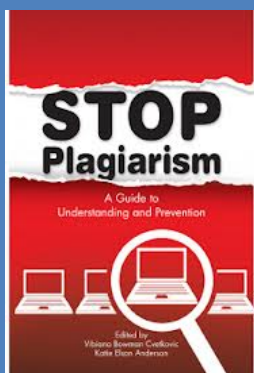http://plagiarism.bloomfieldmedia.com/z-wordpress/

In other words, students should be fully aware of the threat of plagiarism. The question, "Have I plagiarized in my works?", should be always kept in your mind when you produce your academic products.
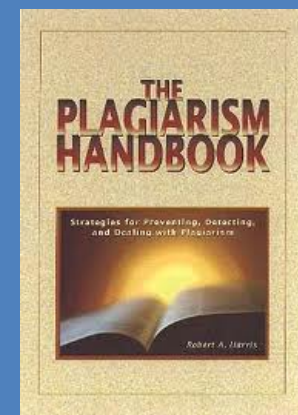
One of the ways to help you well-prepare to win the war is to enhance your knowledge about plagiarism. There are ample resources available in local university libraries and online.

One other alternative helping to prevent plagiarism is originality check or plagiarism checking /detection. "Plagiarism detection is the process of locating instances of plagiarism within a work or document" (Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism_detection).

Since the rapid development of computer technology, computer-assisted plagiarism detection software have been increasingly used in especially academic fields in past decade. For example, Copyscape, Turnitin, Veriguide…and many others are available in commercial markets, while some of the software can be obtained free, such as CopyTracker and Plagiarism Detect, according to Wikipedia. The annex shows a summary of anti-plagiarism practices and software adopted in a number of local universities.