



COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF RHODE ISLAND

# Avoiding Plagiarism with Correct Documentation

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

# Plagiarism in Communication Mediums

**Plagiarism can happen in any communication medium:**

- ❖ paragraphs
- ❖ essays
- ❖ research papers
- ❖ visual aids
- ❖ business letters
- ❖ speeches
- ❖ poems
- ❖ conversations
- ❖ films
- ❖ reports
- ❖ songs
- ❖ novels
- ❖ newspaper articles
- ❖ Web sites

# Plagiarism in Different Environments

Plagiarism can happen in different environments:

Conversations at Work

Published Communications

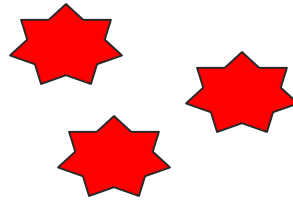
Academic Settings

# Conversations at Work

We could sell more of the new product if it were offered in really bright colors, like red.



Joe



That's a great idea of yours, Joe! I'll tell our boss about it when I meet with her later today.



# Plagiarism at Work

You stole my idea!!!



We should make the new product in really bright colors, like red, yellow, or green.



That idea of yours is really great! You are one of our company's most creative employees.



# Giving Credit to People: Correct, Ethical and Legal

Joe suggested that we make our product in bright colors, like red. I love the idea of red, but we could use other bright colors, too.

Joe's idea is really creative, and your summary of his idea is well done. I also like your added suggestion about the other colors.

Thanks for giving me credit for my idea.



# “Plagiarism” Defined with Inclusion of MLA Documentation Information

“Plagiarism” is defined by *Dictionary.com* as “an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author” (par. 1).

In this definition of “plagiarism,” quotation marks have been placed around the borrowed words. The source of the words, *Dictionary.com*, is stated at the end of the quotation in an in-text parenthetical citation.

## Work Cited

“Plagiarism.” *Dictionary.com Unabridged*.  
Random House, 15 June 2016,  
[www.dictionary.com/browse/plagiarism?s=t](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/plagiarism?s=t). Accessed 15 June 2016.

In this example of a bibliography page, the additional information explains to readers and/or listeners about the “work” that has been “cited” in the parenthetical citation.



# Published Communications

Employees who plagiarize in published communications, as well as in other mediums, will hurt their credibility and could be fired:

- A CBS news producer was fired (“CBS”).
- An editor for a Florida magazine was fired (Stableford).



# Academic Settings

The CCRI *Student Handbook* defines “plagiarism” as an act of dishonesty that can result in “disciplinary sanctions.” The first of the five dishonest acts listed in this handbook is: “Cheating, plagiarism, violations of testing protocols, or any other form of academic dishonesty that seeks to portray the work of others as your own to gain an academic advantage over others through the unacknowledged effort of others, or in any way benefit from anything not through your own scholarship” (“Student Conduct Code”).

# Plagiarism: Wrong, Unethical, and Illegal

- Plagiarism is wrong, unethical, and illegal in work, academic, and other settings.
- Someone who plagiarizes can be sued, as illustrated by a case heard in the Court of Appeals in Connecticut (Coster v. Duquette).



# Avoiding Plagiarism by Correctly Using a Documentation System

- Whenever we borrow words, ideas, pictures, symbols, musical notes, structures, or other items, we need to document (give credit to) the source of each borrowed item.
- A quotation, paraphrase, or summary is used to convey borrowed information or words.
- To connect borrowed information or words to a source(s), one of these documentation systems can be used:

MLA

APA

Chicago

CSE

# Plagiarism Practice Exercises

- [New Mexico State University](#) has quizzes and other resources.
- [Penn State](#) has a plagiarism quiz bank.
- [Purdue University](#) has information and a plagiarism exercise.

# Works Cited

“CBS News Producer Fired for Plagiarism.” *msnbc.com*, The Associated Press, 2010, [today.msnbc.msn.com/id/18045526/](http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/18045526/).

Coster v. Duquette. AC30601. Court of Appeals of Connecticut on appeal from the Superior Court of Waterbury County, 31 March 2010. *MoreLaw.com*.  
[www.morelaw.com/verdicts/case.asp?n=AC%2030601&s=&d=43419](http://www.morelaw.com/verdicts/case.asp?n=AC%2030601&s=&d=43419).

“Plagiarism.” *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, 15 June 2016, [www.dictionary.com/browse/plagiarism?s=t](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/plagiarism?s=t). Accessed 15 June 2016.

“Student Conduct Code.” *Student Handbook*, Community College of Rhode Island, 8 January 2016, [www.ccri.edu/advising/new\\_students/student\\_handbook/handbook.html#student\\_conduct\\_code](http://www.ccri.edu/advising/new_students/student_handbook/handbook.html#student_conduct_code). Accessed 27 July 2016.

Stableford, Dylan. “UPDATE: Florida Editor Fired Over Plagiarism.” *FOLIO*, 23 Mar. 2009, [www.foliomag.com/2009/report-florida-editor-plagiarized-wsj-ew-oprah-others](http://www.foliomag.com/2009/report-florida-editor-plagiarized-wsj-ew-oprah-others).



# More Information

The Writing Center at the Community College of Rhode Island has more online resources.



# Contact Information

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