STUDENT

PLAGIARISM

DEFINITION

In ACC’s Policy A25, plagiarism is defined as "using another’s words, ideas, theories or images without crediting the source" (Assiniboine Community College, 2013). Sources are credited through the citations and references of American Psychological Association [APA] style. By far the most common source for the work of “another” at ACC has been websites which students find through search engines like Google and use information from without citing. Other sources of plagiarism have been friends, classmates, parents, siblings, spouses, partners, tutors, and students in similar programs at other schools. For images, formulas, coding, and other non-textual information, it is recommended that course outlines and assignment instructions be very clear on citing expectations in order to avoid confusion. In all cases, talk to your instructor regarding their expectations about citing and plagiarism.

ACC uses APA as its official citing style. It allows students to avoid plagiarism by citing their sources, and to complete their coursework with academic integrity. Students at a community college level are not expected or required to know or use what APA calls “professional” level writing skills, which would be suitable at a graduate university level. Rather, ACC’s standard is what is called a “student” level. It is more focused on basic citations and references in essays rather than writing original research for publication. This practice also helps avoid “citation fixation” (Stephens, 2014) and “citation obsession” (Schick, 2011), which in turn contribute to negative, punitive, and reactive rule compliance cultures (Bertram Gallant, 2008) that academic integrity research recommends avoiding.

The author last names and dates which make up the citations in this paper, along with their corresponding references on the reference page at the end of this paper, are examples of citing in APA style. They are letting you, as the reader, know what sources were used in the research for this paper, as well as where to find them for yourself. To use these sources without crediting them using both a citation and reference would be plagiarism, whether the exact wording was used, or any amount of words were changed. The same principle will apply to many written assignments that you do as an ACC student. It may also apply to not only written sources that you have used, but graphics, coding, formulas, images, sound clips, video clips, interviews, presentations, or any other material which is not your own. Learning this type of academic skill is not easy or fast, and ACC staff and faculty will work with you to develop this skill over time. This could be in the form of online resources, in-class workshops, or individual appointments with support staff. The ACC Library website is a good place to start building your citing skills.

assiniboine.libguides.com/citing
Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein was a groundbreaking book because it was the first modern science fiction story. It was written at a time when people were worried about scientists playing god and scared of what might happen in the future if science had a free reign without morals. It was also a horror story because it dealt with death and gory details of decaying flesh. The original story was written over one weekend while Mary Shelley was staying with Shelley and Byron and they were challenging each other to write the scariest story.

Why is the above possibly plagiarised? This information must have come from somewhere, either reading from books or the internet. At the very least, the book being discussed should be cited.

Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein (1818) was a groundbreaking book because it was the first modern science fiction story (Ordover, 2007). It was written at a time when people were worried about scientists playing god and scared of what might happen in the future if science had a free reign without morals (Morton, 2002). It was also a horror story because it dealt with death and gory details of decaying flesh. The original story was written over one weekend while Mary Shelley was staying with Shelley and Byron and they were challenging each other to write the scariest story (Ordover, 2007).

Remember as well as the citations in the text, there should be a reference list which gives these references in full at the end of the essay. The reference list should match the citations, i.e. there should be no citation in the text that is not referenced in the reference list, and no reference in the list that is not cited in the text. Also note that the citation can be used more than once in the same essay; each time you make a point you should cite the author who influenced your thought process in making this point.

There are many ways for students to avoid plagiarism, including:

» discuss plagiarism and academic integrity with your instructor
» understand how to quote and paraphrase
» use academic integrity checklist
» keep careful research notes
» cite all sources – regardless of their format – that are not your own
» use a citation manager like Noodle Tools, MS Word, Zotero, or others
» proofread your assignment before submitting
An initiative which tracks and blocks websites offering contract cheating and plagiarism services revealed that many ACC students use “paraphrasing tools” to plagiarise. These websites present themselves as harmless, time-saving platforms which help students avoid plagiarism by “paraphrasing” text. What these websites in fact do is neither harmless nor useful. Using them prevents students from learning how to paraphrase properly. They generate awkwardly worded passages which are easy for instructors to recognize as having come from these sites. The text produced is plagiarized in that it is the poorly rewritten words of another without citation. Students who use these sites may face sanctions for plagiarism as part of Policy A25.

REFERENCES


http://www.plagiarismchecker.net/plagiarism-worksheet-for-college-and-university-level-students.php

Schick, K. (2011). Citation obsession? Get over it!
https://www.chronicle.com/article/Citation-Obsession-Get-Over/129575

https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=citation-fixation-office-hours