
AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

Other Handouts:

- Principles of Referencing
- Quoting & Referencing
- Paraphrasing & Referencing
- Why is Plagiarism so wrong?
- Writing from Sources

What is plagiarism?

Murdoch University's definition as set out in the handbook is that:

Plagiarism constitutes using the work of another without indicating by referencing (and by quotation marks when exact phrases and passages are borrowed) that the ideas expressed are not one's own. ... [It] applies to work in any medium (for example, written or audio text, film production, computer programs, etc.). (Murdoch University *Handbook*, 2004, p. 21)

The key point to remember about plagiarism is that: "Plagiarism is passing off someone else's work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, as your own for your own benefit" (cited by Carroll, 2002, p.9).

Why is plagiarism to be avoided?

Acting dishonestly in assessment is defined as misconduct under the Student Discipline Statute. Depending on the seriousness of the case, it can lead to a requirement to undertake additional work, failure in a unit or in a part of it, suspension from the University or even permanent expulsion from the University. The University regards any form of cheating as a serious matter of academic dishonesty which threatens the integrity of the assessment processes and awards of the University, to the detriment of all other students and graduates of the University.

<http://www.murdoch.edu.au/teach/plagiarism/>

How can you avoid plagiarism?

To avoid inadvertently plagiarising you must always reference all your sources correctly, and either paraphrase the ideas in your own words or use a direct quote.

Adapted from Academic Skills Office. (n.d).

References

- Academic Skills Office. (n.d.). *Avoiding plagiarism* [Handout]. Armidale: Teaching & Learning Centre, University of New England.
- Avoiding Plagiarism & Collusion (2005) Retrieved December, 2006, from Murdoch University Library website: <http://www.murdoch.edu.au/teach/plagiarism/>
- Carroll, J. (2002). *A handbook for deterring plagiarism in higher education*. Oxford, UK: Oxford Centre for Staff and Learning Development.
- Murdoch University (2004). *Handbook 2005*. Perth, WA: Office of Central Student Administration, Murdoch University.