PLAGIARISM

by:
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Plagiarism is a mortal sin in today’s culture of fast paced society. At first glance, it may seem a harmless and subtle misconduct of people, but the moment you analyze the situation, horrid fruits of these actions will lead to massive trouble.

According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, to "plagiarize" means:

• to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
• to use (another's production) without crediting the source
• to commit literary theft
• to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

On a deeper sense, plagiarism promotes evident dishonesty, endorses fraud and upholds intellectual theft in various ways. Hence, it is a qualified form of punishable crime, under the rule of law.

In former times, a wide range of evidences reveal that Greek authors are accusing their counterparts for plagiarizing or relating their works of art. Today, with the advent of modern technology, plagiarism becomes convenient and effortless. Last 2015, a researcher cited the Internet as the most commonly blamed medium for encouraging plagiarism since it offers easy access to everyone and features a wide array of data and information across the globe.

Moreover, several people have done plagiarism in their own specific fields. Examples of these are singers on their songs, politician on their speeches, artists on their crafts and writers on
their novels. But among all of these people, students are the most fondest and vulnerable to plagiaristic practices.

In reference to the survey conducted by the Josephson Institute Center for Youth Ethics last 2013, they found that out of 43,000 high school students in public and private schools, 59% of high school students admitted cheating on a test, 34% self-reported doing it more than two times and one out of three high school students admitted that they used the Internet to plagiarize an assignment.

However, plagiarism is not a hopeless case. According to plagiarism.com, most cases of plagiarism can be avoided by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

The Ashford Writing Center presented five steps on how to avoid Plagiarism. The first one is, Understand Plagiarism. To understand plagiarism, is to know how to avoid it. In some cases, people are not aware that they are plagiarizing, for they think it is normal to use someone else’s work or ideas as their own. Properly Quote and Paraphrase, is the second step. Using outside evidence is important in academic writing, but those sources must be used appropriately. One can include information from outside sources through proper paraphrasing and quoting. The third step is, Properly Cite Sources. As noted in second step, one can paraphrase and quote pieces of evidence to include information from outside sources. But, all of that information must be cited within one’s paper using in-text citations and a separate references list. Check One’s Work for Possible Plagiarism is the fourth. It’s always a good idea to use a tool to check that one has properly used outside sources, an example of this tool is a plagiarism checker, which is available online. And finally, Practice. If one follows these steps and continues to do so, fewer people will be accused of plagiarism.
References:


