Research Publishing:
Avoiding the Pitfalls of Plagiarism
Reminders

- All source material needs adequate reference citation
  - Self-plagiarism

- When in doubt, follow the spirit of the law
  - Always provide a reference
  - An improperly formatted citation is better than no citation at all!

- General Rule: citations should be ‘user friendly’
  - Provide enough information for someone to find your source material
Types of Plagiarism

- Verbatim
- Cosmetic Alteration
- Paraphrasing
- Self-Plagiarism
Plagiarizing Verbatim

- Unacknowledged direct quotation

- General Rule: cite as you go!
Indiana University, Bloomington’s School of Education Provides the following example of “Word for Word” Plagiarism*:

**Plagiarized Version**

In examining technology, we have to remember that computers are not the first technology people have had to deal with. The first technology was the primitive modes of communication used by prehistoric people before the development of spoken language.

**Correct Version**

In examining technology, we have to remember that computers are not the first technology people have had to deal with. Frick (1991) believes that "... the first technology was the primitive modes of communication used by prehistoric people before the development of spoken language" (p. 10).


* Source: https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html
Cosmetic Alteration

- Altering material (rearranging phrases & substituting synonyms) without crediting source
It is often argued that philosophers in the generation after Parmenides recognized that he had bequeathed new challenges to them, and they rose to the occasion. Parmenides' influence is shown by the fact that later philosophers thought it was extremely important to address the question of whether there could be more than one thing. Anaxagoras in particular appears to have been replying to matters brought up by Parmenides and Zeno. In this he was similar to other thinkers of his generation (Empedocles and Melissus for example). Anaxagoras thought he was capable of providing an explanation of the universe in terms people were used to. He also thought he could explain how transformations happen, how there could be various things of the kinds we claim exist (stones, plants, clouds), etc.

Cherubin explains the problem here is that “the writer has passed off the ideas of another as his or her own….without giving credit to the source from which he/she absorbed them.”

Princeton University provides the following example*:

Lifting selected passages and phrases without proper acknowledgment (lifted passages are underlined)

Almost all of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* can be understood as a play about acting and the theater. For example, in Act 1, Hamlet adopts a **pretense of madness** that he uses **to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from discovering** his mission to revenge his father’s murder. He also presents **truth by means of a show** when he compares the portraits of Gertrude’s two husbands in order **to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made**. And when he leaps in Ophelia’s open grave **ranting in high heroic terms**, Hamlet is **acting out the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief**.

“Although the writer has rewritten much of the paragraph, and fewer phrases are lifted verbatim from the source, this is a clear example of plagiarism. Inserting even short phrases from the source into a new sentence still requires placing quotations around the borrowed words and citing the author.”

* Source: http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/plagiarism/
The Case of Steven Ambrose

The Weekly Standard reported that "whole passages in The Wild Blue were barely distinguishable from those in Wings of Morning by Thomas Childers."

For example, Childers' 1995 work included this passage: "Up, up, up, groping through the clouds, no amount of practice could have prepared them for what they encountered: B-24s, glittering like mica." In The Wild Blue, published six years later, Ambrose wrote: "Up, up, up he went, until he got above the clouds. No amount of practice could have prepared the pilot and crew for what they encountered: B-24s, glittering like mica." Ambrose did not put quotations marks around the passage, but did mention Childers in footnotes. Beyond Childers' book, Ambrose has recently acknowledged that he borrowed words and phrases from two other sources for The Wild Blue. (http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/law/jan-june02/history_1-28.html)
Ambrose pleads not guilty. "If I am writing up a passage," he told the New York Times, "and part of it is from other people's writing, I just type it up that way and put in a footnote. I wish I had put the quotation marks in." Still, he said, "I tell stories; I am not writing a Ph.D. dissertation."

General Rule: when in doubt, give credit!
Paraphrasing

- Summarizing material without identifying source

According to Princeton University, “When paraphrasing, it’s absolutely necessary (1) to use your own words and structure, and (2) to place a citation at the end of the paraphrase to acknowledge that the content is not original” (http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/plagiarism/).
Indiana University, Bloomington’s School of Education Provides the Following Rule for Paraphrasing*:

“A paraphrased example must be cited. You cite a paraphrased example as you would a word-for-word quote. Paraphrasing is a condensed version of another author's work, or putting the author's words into your own words.”

* Source: https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/example1paraphrasing.html
According to Gredler (2001), the same factors apply to developing complex skills in a classroom setting as to developing complex skills in any setting. A response must be induced, then reinforced as it gets closer to the desired behavior. Reinforcers have to be scheduled carefully, and cues have to be withdrawn gradually so that the new behaviors can be transferred and maintained.

Purdue’s OWL described MLA style citation for multiple references as follows*:

MLA: To cite multiple sources in the same parenthetical reference, separate the citations by a semi-colon: . . . as has been discussed elsewhere (Burke 3; Dewey 21).

* Source: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/
Southern New Hampshire University describes APA style citation for multiple sources as follows*:

If your paragraph integrates information from a variety of sources, all of which say approximately the same thing, you can use a multiple citation, listing several author/date references at once, in the same order in which they appear in the References. Separate them with semicolons:

Studies (Jones, 1966; Smith, 1973; Krepp 1985) have shown that . . .

Source: http://it.snhu.edu/donovankim/DocumentingSources/apa.htm
Incorporating or adapting one’s own previously written material

According to an article in Slate Magazine (June 19, 2012) focusing on allegations that The New Yorker writer Jonah Lehrer had plagiarized himself, “Self-plagiarism is not the same as plagiarism—for one thing, Lehrer is unlikely to demand that The New Yorker retract his own stories. Still, it’s not a victimless crime. Lehrer’s readers deserve to know whether the stuff he’s representing as new material was first published in Wired in 2009.”
General rule: better safe than sorry!

- Remember to cite your previously published works
- Remember to credit your unpublished dissertation manuscript