

Huron University College Statement on Plagiarism

This statement on plagiarism is provided for the information and education of our students. Plagiarism is a scholastic offence that violates the academic standards of the university. Scholastic offences undermine the trust and respect that exist between faculty members and students and between students themselves. These offences are an affront to the integrity of the evaluation process and to the degrees granted by the University. Huron University College does not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Offences will be investigated and sanctions imposed.

The definition of plagiarism found in the UWO Calendar is as follows:

“The act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.” (from Black’s Law Dictionary, West Group, 1999, 7th ed., p.1170)

Students who are in doubt as to the nature of this offence should consult their instructor, Department Chair, or Dean’s Office. In addition, students may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available at the Reference Desk in the Huron University College Library. Information about these resources can be found at:
www.huronuc.on.ca/library&computing/styleguides.htm

Examples of plagiarism

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Plagiarism can occur whenever you make use of the ideas or work product of someone else without including an appropriate citation. The guidelines described in this booklet apply to all kinds of your scholarly work: essays, examinations, oral reports, homework assignments, laboratory reports, computer programs, music scores, Web pages, choreography, graphical depictions, visual representations, and so on. Plagiarism is possible with any formal work performed in any medium and in any scholarly discipline. To avoid the most common forms of inadvertent plagiarism, you should develop the habit of citing sources not only when you execute the final draft of a scholarly project but also as you take any preliminary notes for it.

FOLLOWING are several typical examples of plagiarized work. The plagiarizer has used words or ideas taken from the following two paragraphs that appear in Caroline Spurgeon's critical work, *Shakespeare's Imagery*:

The main image in *Othello* is that of animals in action, preying upon one another, mischievous, lascivious, cruel or suffering, and through these,

the general sense of pain and unpleasantness is much increased and kept constantly before us.

More than half the animal images in the play are lingo's, and all these are contemptuous or repellent: a plague of flies, a quarrelsome dog, the recurrent image of bird-snaring, leading asses by the nose, a spider catching a fly, beating an offenceless dog, wild cats, wolves, goats and monkeys.²

Plagiarism by unacknowledged verbatim quotation:

The majority of the animal images in the play are lingo's, and all of these are contemptuous or repellent. He refers to a plague of flies, a quarrelsome dog, bird-snaring, leading asses by the nose, a spider catching a fly, beating an offenceless dog, wild cats, goats and monkeys. Through these images the general sense of pain and unpleasantness is increased and kept constantly before us.

Note that this paragraph duplicates Spurgeon's passage with only slight rearrangement and restatement, and without using appropriate quotation marks or providing a citation at the end.

Plagiarism by mosaic or mixing paraphrase and unacknowledged quotation:

I believe that the main image in Shakespeare's tragedy, *Othello*, is that of animals. These creatures are constantly in action, preying upon one another, and they are depicted as mischievous, wanton, cruel or suffering. By Shakespeare's ingenious use of these animal images, the general sense of pain and unpleasantness that pervades the entire story is much increased and kept constantly before the reader.

Note how in this case the plagiarist intermingles his or her own original writing with unmarked, uncited excerpts and phrases drawn directly from Spurgeon.

Plagiarism by unacknowledged paraphrase and/or use of ideas:

In *Othello*, Shakespeare makes frequent use of animal imagery. The specific images he uses are generally distasteful and convey to the reader a constant impression of conflict and misery.

Note that although this excerpt does not make literal use of Spurgeon's paragraphs, it nevertheless draws its ideas from them without any acknowledgment and thus constitutes an act of plagiarism on a par with the two preceding examples.

Plagiarism of nontextual materials:

Directly using items like a published map, a chart, a statistical table, a musical score, a Web page, or someone else's experiment or computer routine without acknowledging your source amounts to the same act of plagiarism as quoting from another's text without using quotation marks and citing the quotation's source. Modifying or transposing certain aspects of such items without acknowledging your source amounts to the same act of plagiarism as not acknowledging your rearrangement of stylistic or thematic elements from another person's text. Taking full credit for the results of someone else's technical labor or procedures amounts to the same act of plagiarism as paraphrasing without acknowledging an idea not held by you before reading someone else's work.

2 Caroline F. E. Spurgeon, *Shakespeare's Imagery* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1935) 335.