

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism occurs when you present someone else's words or ideas as your own. Plagiarism is a kind of stealing, and is dishonest and unacceptable. The University has very clear and strict guidelines about responding to plagiarism and the penalties for this are quite severe.

In 2007 we introduced plagiarism software for the first time and were shocked at how many students were simply copying material from sources word for word. In PSYC1001 2008 however we made referencing skills education a priority and demonstrated the power of the plagiarism software early on in semester. The rates of plagiarism dropped dramatically, but many students were still caught.

Our School Policy is this:

Plagiarism is not permitted

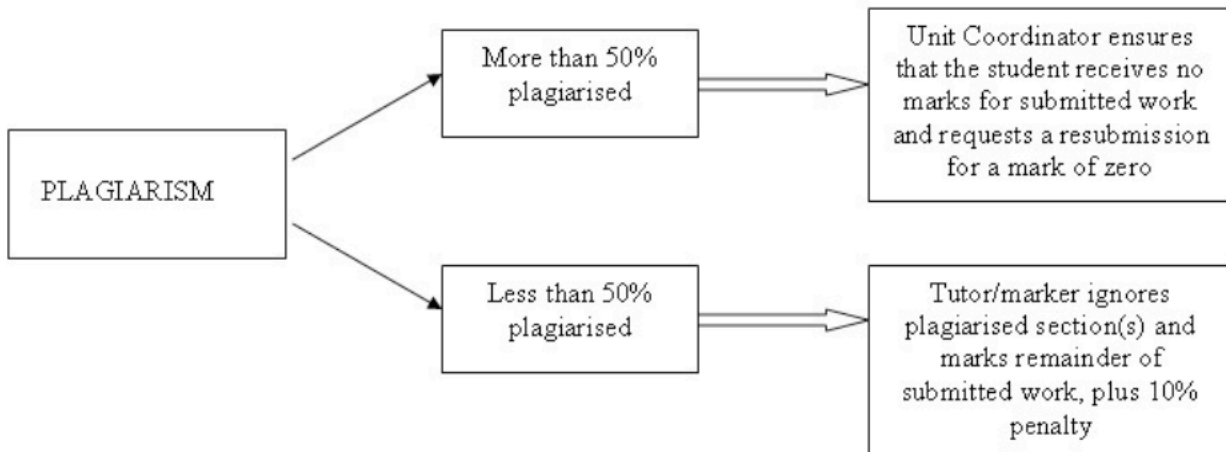
i) Are you sure you know what plagiarism is?

Please refer to the University policy on plagiarism:

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/senate/policies/Plagiarism.pdf>

ii) The School of Psychology will penalise **all** submitted work that is plagiarised;

iii) The School of Psychology is using software to detect **all** forms of plagiarism.



Here is a very clear outline of what is regarded by the University as plagiarism:

First, **never use another person's words without acknowledging that person.** Generally, it is best to avoid quotations anyway. Unless someone has said something more clearly than you could ever say it, or there is some special significance to what they have said, use your own words. You need to learn to express yourself clearly in writing and, like most other skills, this requires practice. If you do use a quotation this should be indicated in the conventional way by enclosing the quoted passage within quotation marks and by providing a precise reference for the source of the quote, including page number/s.

Second, **never use another person's ideas without acknowledging that person.** Even paraphrasing someone else is plagiarizing, if you do not acknowledge them. You do this by giving their name and the year in which they presented the idea; you do not need a page number except for quotes (see above). Expressing an idea without giving a citation implies

that it is your own idea. Especially when you are starting out in psychology, most of what you say in an Report or report will be information that you have read somewhere. So we expect that you will provide a citation for almost every claim that you make. Correct referencing style is one of the things for which marks will be awarded.

This does not mean that you can simply string together a whole lot of ideas from other people and call it your Report or Essay. If all you do is reproduce what someone else has said about a topic (with a bit of editing) you are unlikely to understand the information. So, you need to structure the information you have collected (and acknowledged appropriately) into an argument that is your own. The originality of your thinking should be evident in the way in which you answer the question, show understanding of the topic, and structure the Report or report.

The points made here also apply to non-textual material. For example, graphs or tables of data included in a report should be your own work and not copied from others. Very occasionally you may need to 'quote' a figure from some other source; if you do so, you should make its origin quite clear.

In all of the above, "another person" can be a published author or another student. Copying (even with some paraphrasing) is plagiarism. Avoid the possibility of copying, or being copied by, another student. It is alright to discuss a topic with another student, but avoid ever seeing their written work. It is too easy to "incorporate" it into your own work (even without realizing it). Also, avoid letting other students see your written work. On the rare occasion where this could be appropriate, make sure that the other student acknowledges your contribution as the original author. Otherwise what may perhaps have been intended as an act of generosity could have harmful consequences.

In Psychology 1, there are NO contexts where you should share your work with others.

Be very protective of your written work. Even if a close friend (of ten years!) begs you to email them your work to "help them get an idea of what to do" refuse the request. You should only feel comfortable showing your work to another student in the same course if you are holding the hardcopy and they do not have a notepad! In all other circumstances the temptation is often too much, and you will be condemning your friend to a severe penalty by being 'kind'.

If you must ask someone to proofread your work, ask someone who is not a Psychology student, and even then show them a hardcopy and sit by them while they correct it.

- Do not email your written work to anyone.
- Do not place your written work on a college network.
- Do not leave your work on a public computer.
- Do not leave the room while you are 'showing' your assignment to a colleague.
- Even if the person requesting your work is your best friend in the whole world, do not trust them with your work. This is an issue of temptation more than dishonesty.