The Fascinating World of Academic Integrity at MIT

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English Language Studies
Overview

1. Academic Integrity
2. Plagiarism
3. Incorporating sources
4. Citation
5. Documenting your research
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY QUESTIONS I AM ASKED EVERY SEMESTER
I WRITE BAD.

I CAN HAS ROOMMATE FIX PAPER FOR ME?
I WRITE BAD.

I CAN HAS ROOMMATE FIX PAPER FOR ME?

Photo credit: Oliver sitting on chair armrest by Mr. TinDC is licensed under CC 2.0.

Photo credit: JUST CALL ME GRUMPY by Milo Bostock is licensed under CC 2.0.
I TOO TIRED.
I CAN COPY NICE FRIEND’S PSET?
I TOO TIRED.

I CAN COPY NICE FRIEND’S PSET?

Photo credit: Oliver sitting on chair armrest by Mr. TinDC is licensed under CC 2.0.

NO

Photo credit: JUST CALL ME GRUMPY by Milo Bostock is licensed under CC 2.0.
WRITING SO HARD!!

I CAN BUY PAPER ON INTERNET?
WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?
“Plagiarism occurs when you use another’s words, ideas, assertions, data, or figures and do not acknowledge that you have done so.”

Source: integrity.mit.edu
Real life examples!

Photo credit: https://twitter.com/annehelen/status/758839860777984000

Photo credit: Isabel Infantes/PA

Photo credit: The Scientist
Changing a few words doesn’t make it yours.

Michelle Obama:
...that your word is your bond, that you do what you say you’re going to do. That you treat people with dignity and **respect**...

*Melania Trump:*
...that your word is your bond and you do what you say and keep your promise. *That you treat people with respect*...

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Not Plagiarism:
In a 2008 speech, Michelle Obama explains that keeping promises is essential. In addition, she says that it’s important to be **respect**ful of others.
An Amazing coincidence?

Ed Sheeran
Photo credit: Isabel Infantes/PA

Matthew Cardle
Photo credit: Johan Persson
“Amazing” VS. “Photograph”

Video: “Does Ed Sheeran (Photograph) plagiarize Matt Cardle (Amazing) - Comparison & Mashup”
by AL MASHUPS – Adrian Liao  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3YFOaLiUsY
Dartmouth Prof Plagiarizes

Dartmouth Professor Plagiarized His Colleague, University Says

H. Gilbert Welch, a health policy expert who has advocated against superfluous cancer screening, published another Dartmouth researcher’s work, according to the university administration.
How can I use outside sources without plagiarizing?

- Quote
- Paraphrase
- Summarize
- Cite your sources
HOW TO CITE
Ask your professor which style to use

**Chicago**

**MLA**

**APA**
According to a study by Mitchell, Roberts, Sittert, and Skinner (2013), “The long neck of giraffes did not evolve as a weapon in males. The more likely selective advantage of a long neck was improvement of access to high-level browse” (p. 8).

However, some other scientists disagree. For instance, Volodina (2018) claims that giraffes’ extremely long necks developed as part
AND in the bibliography

(APA style)


Zerbinakoviski, S., Radonskiola, G. & Litzuhaniatovianok, M. (2018). Why cats are so much better than giraffes in every way: The
Citation is important

1. To show that you have done your research.
2. To give credit to others for their work.
3. To point your readers to sources that may be useful to them.
4. To allow your readers to check your sources if there are questions.

Source: integrity.mit.edu
What should I cite?

Material including but not limited to books, journal articles, newspaper articles retrieved from databases such as Lexis-Nexis and ProQuest, personal and organizational websites, blogs, emails, tweets, Facebook posts, computer source code, geospatial (GIS) data, Census, economic and other types of data published by governments, data from surveys, economic indicators, bioinformatics data, charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, architectural plans, photographs, television broadcasts, podcasts or public speeches, personal conversations, interviews, information obtained in lectures, poster sessions, or scholarly presentations of any kind.

Source: integrity.mit.edu
Did you create it?

Yes

No

Is it common knowledge?

Yes

No need to cite it.

No

You must cite it.

Source: R. Harris, Using Sources Effectively, 2002.
Should you cite this?

In your paper, you state that giraffes have long necks, something you observed while reading a book about giraffes.

NO.
Should you cite this?

In a research paper, you learn that contrary to popular belief, male giraffes developed long necks so that they could eat leaves from the tops of trees—not so they could use their necks to fight each other. You use this fact in your paper.

YES.
Should you cite this?

You conduct an interview about a technical subject with an MIT professor. You make your own notes. In your research paper, you use information from the interview.

YES.
Should you cite this?

While researching a paper on Queen Elizabeth I, you find the comparison that she was the “Miley Cyrus of the Renaissance” on a blog and you use it in your paper.

YES.
Imagine this scenario

You write a paper with 10 different sources and include a full bibliography.

Unfortunately, you don’t remember exactly which fact came from which source. Therefore, you didn’t cite within the text.

The paper is due in one hour.
Oops! Forgot to document!!

Photo credit: What do you mean there's no tuna? by KT Bladen is licensed under CC ND 2.0
TRADITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
Go to the library and get books

Photo credit: Clever Emmy by Sarah Barker, is licensed under CC ND 2.0
Take careful notes about sources
Organize your sources and notes

Photo credit: Schoolwork: Nina’s on it by Jennifer Lamb is licensed under CC 2.0
Write your paper, citing each source, then make a bibliography

Photo credit: Beso does homework by Charles Barilleaux is licensed under CC 2.0
Yay! Finished.

Photo credit: so happy smiling cat by bracketpuameliabracket is licensed under CC 2.0
Search the online library for sources
Click icon to save sources

Photo credit: Cats and gadgets by Melissa Seckington is licensed under CC 2.0. Screen image altered.
Mark sources with your comments

Photo credit: Cats and gadgets by Melissa Seckington is licensed under CC 2.0. Screen image altered.
Take careful notes about sources
Take careful notes about sources

Photo credit: Cats and gadgets by Melissa Seckington is licensed under CC 2.0. Screen image altered.

Photo credit: Star frame gif from isupportcause.com. Image widened.
Write your paper, adding in-text citations as you go
Automatically create a bibliography and you’re done!

Photo credit: Cats and gadgets by Melissa Seckington under CC 2.0. Screen image altered.
Summary

1. Do your own work
2. Document your research
3. Remember to cite
4. Success!
Useful URLs

Academic integrity: integrity.mit.edu

“Free” classes to improve your English: bit.ly/mit-english

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