

Understanding Plagiarism in the Academic World

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Prologue

In 1922 T. S. Eliot published the popular poem *The Waste Land*. Decades later it was discovered that the poem was largely a hodgepodge of text from lesser-known poets, one of them named Madison Casein and his poem entitled *Waste Land*.

Well before the publication of *The Waste Land*, Eliot had already made no secret about his appropriation. In 1920 he published an essay that famously said, “Immature poets imitate, mature poets steal; bad poets deface what they take, and good poets make it into something better, or at least something different.”



Source: <https://www.plagiarismtoday.com/2015/02/10/5-great-people-who-plagiarized/>

Prologue

Continued

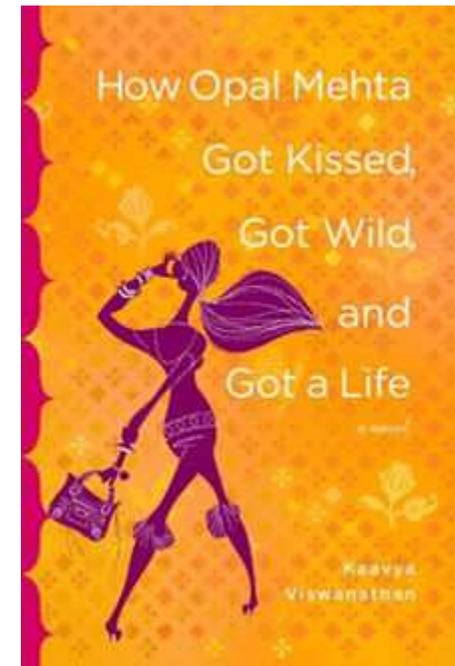
Name of the Book: *How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life*

Author: *Kaavya Viswanathan*

Observation: *It was discovered that several portions had been plagiarized from several sources, including the works of Salman Rushdie.*

Result: *Expelled from Harvard University.*

All shelf copies were ultimately recalled and destroyed by the publisher, and Viswanathan's contract for a second book was canceled.



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/How_Opal_Mehta_Got_Kissed,_Got_Wild,_and_Got_a_Life

Prologue

Continued

The list is very long....

- **Martin Luther King Jr.**
- **Helen Keller**
- **Justin Bieber**
- **Dan Brown**
- **J.K Rowling**
- **Barack Obama**



Source: <http://www.toptenz.net/10-famous-people-accused-of-plagiarism.php>

The reality of Plagiarism

Copyright 2008 by Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



**"I need you to do a presentation on the topic of 'plagiarism'.
If you don't have time to prepare anything, just steal
something off the Internet."**

Academic Writing & Plagiarism

- Academic writing refers to a particular style of expression that researchers use to define the intellectual boundaries of their disciplines and their areas of expertise.
- Characteristics of academic writing include a formal tone.
- Use of the third-person rather than first-person perspective.
- Evidence-Based Arguments.
- It is essential to always acknowledge the source of any ideas, research findings, data, or quoted text that a researcher has used in his/her writing as a defense against allegations of plagiarism.

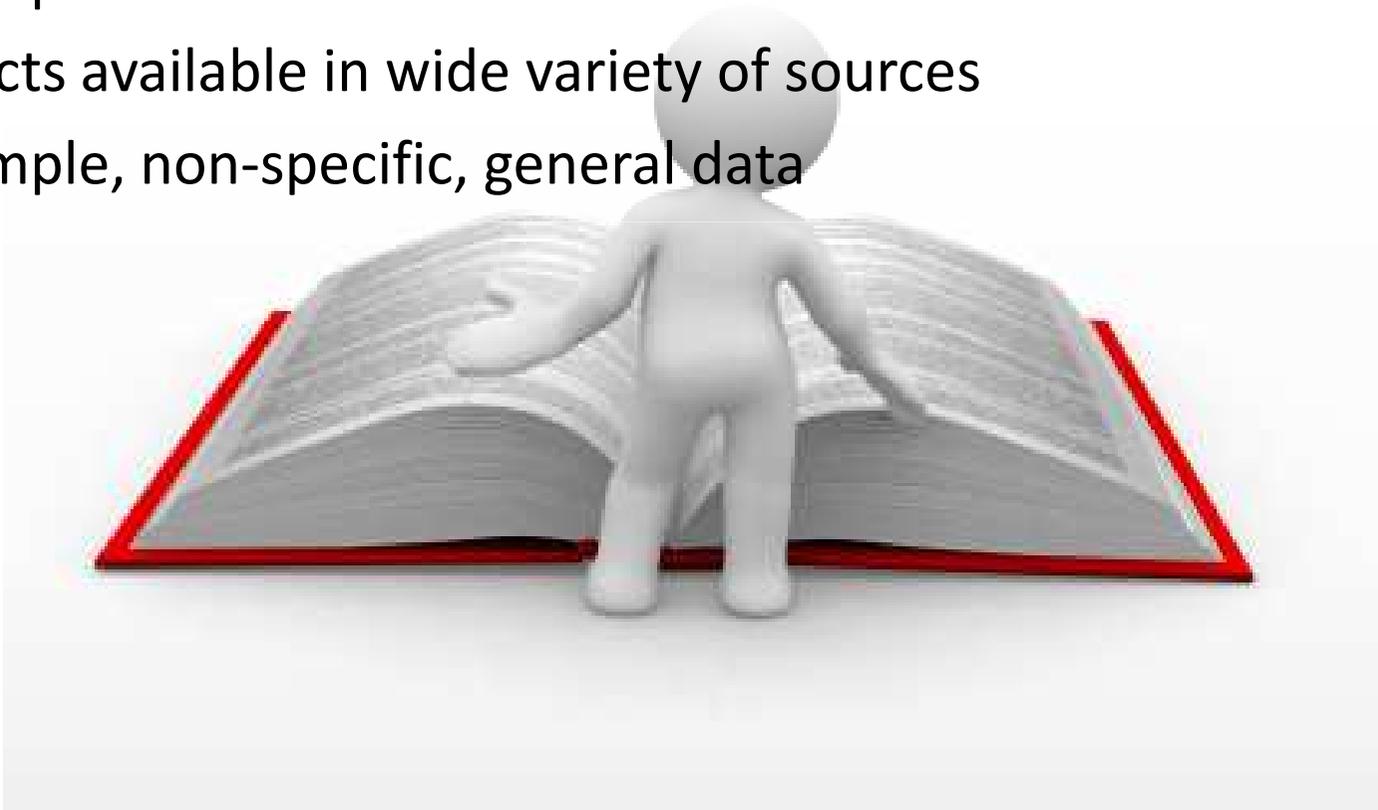
Source: <http://libguides.usc.edu/writingguide/academicwriting>

Plagiarism: meaning

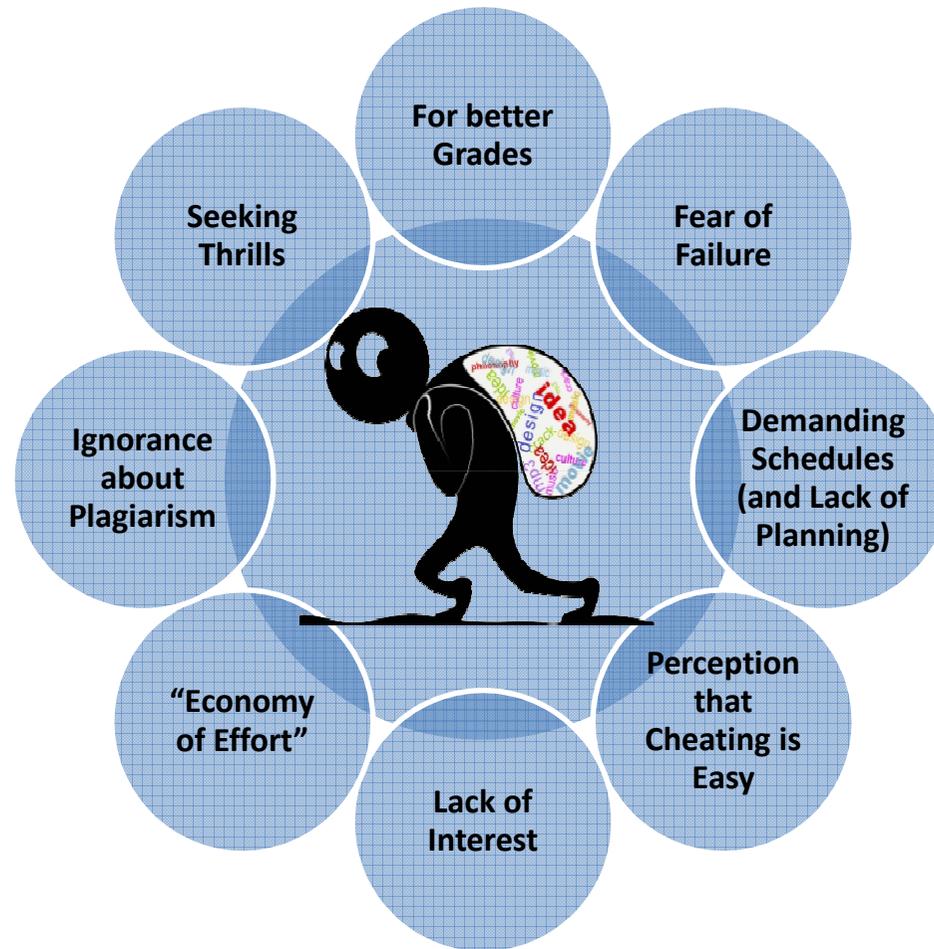
- The Cambridge English Dictionary (2017) defines plagiarism as *“to use another person's ideas or work and pretend that it is your own”*
- Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2017) defines to “plagiarize” with the description in the definition below:
 - To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source
 - To commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source
- Plagiarism can apply to anything, from term papers to photographs to songs, even ideas.

What is not Plagiarism?

- Common knowledge
- Simple facts
- Facts available in wide variety of sources
- Simple, non-specific, general data



Why People Plagiarize?



Source: <http://tlt.psu.edu/plagiarism/instructor-guide/why-students-plagiarize/>

Types of Plagiarism

Sort by: Most Common	Sort by: Most Serious
➤ Paraphrasing	➤ Complete
➤ Repetitive Research	➤ Verbatim
➤ Secondary Source	➤ Unethical Collaboration
➤ Duplication	➤ Misleading Attribution
➤ Verbatim	➤ Replication
➤ Unethical Collaboration	➤ Repetitive Research
➤ Misleading Attribution	➤ Paraphrasing
➤ Invalid Source	➤ Duplication
➤ Replication	➤ Invalid Source
➤ Complete	➤ Secondary Source

Source: <http://www.ithenticate.com/resources/reports/decoding-plagiarism-and-attribution?submissionGuid=f5088c25-fd9a-43ea-8e47-0d04752d025c>

Complete Plagiarism

aka

Intellectual theft, Stealing

Complete plagiarism is an extreme scenario when a researcher takes a study, a manuscript or other work from another researcher and simply resubmits it under his/her name.

How to avoid it-

Never sign your name to someone else's work. Conduct original research and write papers in your own words.

Verbatim Plagiarism

aka

Copy-and-paste, Intellectual theft

Verbatim plagiarism is the copying of another's words and works without providing proper attribution, indentation or quotation marks. It can take two forms. First, no attribution at all is provided, essentially claiming the words of someone else to be their own. In second, plagiarists may cite the source they borrowed from, but not indicate that it's a direct quote.

How to avoid it-

If you have used someone else words or works cite them. If the source is used as it is use quotation mark along with the citation.

Unethical Collaboration

aka

Cheating, Stealing, Ghostwriting

Unethical Collaboration happens when a researcher does not cite the collaborative nature of the study and participants involved in documenting the work, outcomes and ideas that are the result of a collaboration.

How to avoid it-

Always cite collaborators' contributions using proper citation.

Avoid copying words, works and figures or ideas from collaborators without their permission.

Misleading Attribution

aka

Inaccurate authorship

Misleading Attribution is an inaccurate or insufficient list of authors who contributed to a manuscript. It occurs when authors are denied credit for partial or significant contributions made to a study, or the opposite – when authors are cited in a paper although no contributions were made.

How to avoid it-

Do not remove co-authors who have contributed to the study or do not insert others as co-authors who do not at all contributed to the study.

Replication

aka

Author submission violation, Copyright infringement

Replication is the submission of a paper to multiple publications, resulting in the same manuscript being published more than one.

How to avoid it-

Ideally, manuscripts should only be submitted to one publication at a time. If sent accidentally to multiple publications please try to cancel the submission before it get publish more than one location.

Repetitive Research Plagiarism

aka

Intellectual theft, Copyright infringement

Repetitive Research Plagiarism is duplication or repeating of data or text from a similar study with a similar methodology in a new study without proper attribution.

How to avoid it-

When using someone else's methodology, and in a situation when the similar study can not be started differently, citing those sources can prevent the foul play.

Paraphrasing

aka

Intellectual theft

Paraphrasing is taking someone else's writing and change the words and use in own work. It ranges from simple rephrasing to completely rewriting content while maintaining the original idea or concept.

How to avoid it-

Paraphrasing can be done with due citation to the authors.

Duplication

aka

Self-plagiarism, Reuse

Duplication occurs when a researcher reuses work from previous studies and does not give attribution.

How to avoid it-

When using data and text from own previous published work, take care to cite those works.

Invalid Source

aka

False citation

Invalid Source occurs when a researcher cites either an incorrect or non-existent source.

How to avoid it-

When working for a paper or thesis or dissertation (any academic writing), keep track of the sources and double check their accuracy before submission. Never fabricate or falsify a source.

Secondary Source

aka

Inaccurate Citation

Secondary Source Plagiarism occurs when a researcher uses a secondary source, but only cites the primary sources contained within the secondary one.

How to avoid it-

When pulling information from a secondary source, cite that source as well as any primary ones.

Cost of Plagiarism

- The cost of plagiarism can be personal, professional, ethical, and legal.
- Destroyed Student Reputation
- Destroyed Professional Reputation
- Destroyed Academic Reputation
- Legal Repercussions

The screenshot shows a news article from The Times of India. The headline reads: "Ex-VC of [redacted] sent to jail for 'plagiarism', released". The article is by TNN and dated [redacted] IST. The text of the article states: "NEW DELHI: Amid high drama, former Delhi University vice-chancellor [redacted] was sent to jail by a city court in a case of alleged plagiarism and forgery. However, the Delhi high court stayed the arrest order by evening and directed the Tihar Jail authorities to immediately release the academic." There are also two advertisements: "Free IIT-JEE Coaching DVD" and "Get job ready with Aptech".

What percentage of plagiarism is generally treated as acceptable in the Academic world?

The question is usually asked by many researchers and guides who have received originality reports from any plagiarism testing software, and the short answer is zero per-cent.

What percentage of plagiarism is generally treated as acceptable in India, that criteria has been defined by UGC through a Gazette Notification dated July 31, 2018. It says Level 0 (means plagiarism up to 10%) is acceptable for submission of Thesis and Dissertation and also other academic and research publications.

In case of other publishing houses or agencies the criteria depends upon on their own policy.

Anti-plagiarism Tools

Fee based	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• URKUND (www.urkund.com)• Turnitin (www.turnitin.com)• iThenticate (www.ithenticate.com)
Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DupliChecker (www.duplichecker.com): 50 Plagiarism Scans Per Day For Registered Users• PlagiarismChecker (www.plagiarismchecker.com/): Click on the “For authors” option to check unlimited Scans.• Quetext (www.quetext.com)
Both (Fee+Free)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PlagTracker (www.plagtracker.com)

Few notable points regarding Anti-Plagiarism Tools

- Anti-Plagiarism Software detects plagiarism for only those resources which are in the web.
- Anti-Plagiarism software not only provides access to crawled and indexed online content, it can compare texts of gated resources too. The software may also compare submissions to a database as well as submitted paper contents.
- Anti-Plagiarism software are not easy to deceive.
- The combination of technology (Anti-Plagiarism Tools) and human analysis yields the most thorough plagiarism assessment.

Source: <http://www.ithenticate.com/resources/papers/plagiarism-detection-software-misconceptions>

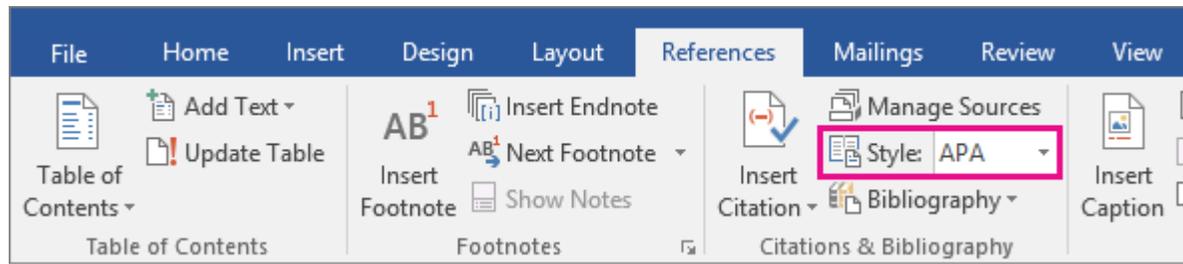
Avoiding Allegations of Plagiarism

- Simply be honest.
- Give credit where it's due.
- Style Guide or Manual of Style-
APA, MLA, Chicago, Harvard
Style, Vancouver Style etc.



Reference Management Tools

Microsoft Word as Referencing Tool-



Tools for researchers and authors to use for recording and utilizing bibliographic citations (references)-



Thank You