

## Plagiarism and Citing Sources

Plagiarism, representing work as your own that you got from another source, is a serious offense. Many students do not understand what constitutes plagiarism or know how to cite sources, leading to unintentional plagiarism.

Tips to avoid plagiarism:

- Whenever you use someone else's exact words, put those words in quotations and cite your source.
- If you rearrange someone else's words and replace a few words with words of your own, you should indicate in the text whose words these were and cite your source. (ex: According to Brown...)
- If you paraphrase, you should cite your source.
- When doing research and taking notes, if you take words verbatim from a source, put them in quotes and record the source and page number in your notes.
- When doing research and taking notes, if you paraphrase or summarize ideas from a source indicate that in your notes and record the source and page number in your notes.

Exercise 1: You are writing a paper. Which of the following require citing your sources? Check all that apply.

- Using sentence from a book, magazine or journal article
- Using an image you found on the Internet
- Using an idea you heard from a classmate during class discussion
- A fact that is considered common knowledge
- Cutting and pasting text from a freely available web site
- Using a story your grandmother told you about the town where she was born

Exercise 2: Read the following excerpt taken verbatim from a journal article by A. Peter Brown about the film *Amadeus* and answer the following questions.

Though titled *Amadeus*, it is the character of Antonio Salieri (1750-1825) who remains at the center of Shaffer's work. Salieri held high posts in the Viennese imperial musical establishment from 1774 until 1824. In his last years he suffered from senility. Among the rumors circulating in Vienna around 1824 was one saying that Salieri had said he poisoned Mozart. The tale reached Beethoven and many others. In 1825 Salieri's two attendants attested that they had never heard such words from their charge, and a friend of Mozart's physician reported that Wolfgang had died of a fever that was epidemic at that time in Vienna. From an unproved premise Shaffer developed this, the central character in *Amadeus*, as one obsessed by and murderously jealous of Mozart's genius.

Brown, A. Peter. "Amadeus' and Mozart." American Scholar 61.1 (Winter 1992): 49- . Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. U Texas Lib., Austin, TX. 23 Mar. 2006  
<<http://search.epnet.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&an=9202033776>>.

### Review Questions

1. The movie *Amadeus* is based on an unproven theory about the character and actions of Antonio Salieri. Does this sentence need to be cited?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ No. No part of this sentence was written by the journal article author.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes. This sentence contains an idea by the journal article author.
2. According to a friend of the doctor who treated Mozart, Mozart died from a fever in 1825. Does this sentence need to be cited?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ No. It is in the student's own words.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes. It is paraphrased from the original journal article.

### Exercise3: Using either the MLA or APA style of citation create a Works Cited list from the following source citations.

- "Why Mozart and Not Salieri" by William A. Therivel from *Creativity Research Journal*, 1999, Vol. 12, Issue 1, p.67 – found in *Academic Search Complete* March 12, 2009.
  - The Culture of Opera Buffa in Mozart's Vienna: A Poetics of Entertainment by Mary Kathleen Hunter, Princeton, N.J., 1999
  - "The Chronology of Mozart's 'La Clemenza Di Tito' Reconsidered" by Sergio Durante from *Music & Letters*, Nov99, Vol. 80 Issue 4, pages 560-594.
  - "Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus (1756-1791) from *The Encyclopedia of European Social History*, edited by Peter Steams, Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2001, in volume 6, p. 233-236, 6 volume set.
- Purpose and Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrates an understanding of intellectual property, copyright, and fair use of copyrighted material
  2. Legally obtains, stores and disseminates text, data, images or sounds
  3. Demonstrates an understanding of what constitutes plagiarism and does not represent work attributable to others as his/her own
  4. Selects an appropriate documentation style and uses it consistently to cite sources
- ACRL Information Literacy Standards incorporated in this assignment:
- Standard 5: The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.