

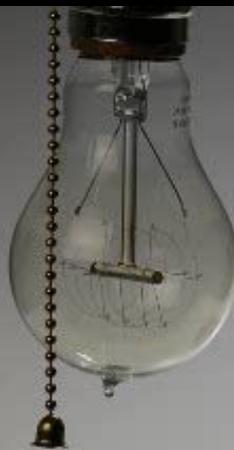
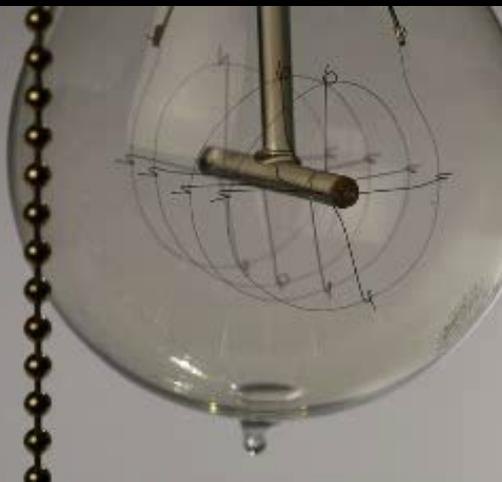
# Plagiarism &

How to avoid it in your written work...



**“We now know a thousand ways  
not to build a light bulb”**

*Thomas Alva Edison*



## KAAVYA VISWANATHAN

**Title:** Harvard University Student

**Problem:** Plagiarized her first book with quotes from other authors

**Consequence:** Her book was recalled, her contract was canceled, and her career was over before it even began (Bailey)

## JAYSON BLAIR

**Title:** NW Times Staff Writer

**Problem:** Plagiarized multiple articles and incorporated fictitious quotes and data.

**Consequence:** Legal investigation and was forced to resign (Bailey)

## THE JAPANESE OLYMPIC STADIUM

**Problem:** Hadid architect claims his original design was plagiarized, and he is threatening Japanese government with taking legal action

**Consequence:** Still in process (Perez)

**As you can see, plagiarism has happened everywhere, and it usually has negative consequences**

# WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

## Deliberate Plagiarism

- Rewriting from books or articles
- copying & pasting from web pages and online sources to create a **patchwork** writing
- buying, downloading, or borrowing a paper



## Accidental Plagiarism

- not knowing when & how to cite
- not knowing how to paraphrase or summarize
- not knowing what “common knowledge” is
- recycling an old paper

According to [plagiarism.org](http://plagiarism.org), “36% of undergraduates admit to “paraphrasing/copying a few sentences from Internet sources without footnoting it” – this would include **not** citing the source.

## **BUT...why?**

An additional 38% of undergraduate students admit to “paraphrasing/copying few sentences from written source without footnoting it,” according to the same source.

- 10. They are lazy.
- 9. They panic.
- 8. They lack confidence.
- 7. They are giving you the facts, the truth or the answer.
- 6. They have difficulty integrating source material into their own exposition or argument.

**TIP:** Visit the SAC Writing Center  
210-486-1436, on-line appointments are available.

## NUMBER ONE??

# Hubris,

what the Ancient Greeks called pride. We might consider it an often unjustified feeling of being pleased with oneself or with one's situation or achievements, particularly getting one over on an authority figure.

- 5. They do not understand why sources are so important and what the fuss is about.
- 4. They are sloppy.
- 3. They do not understand that they need citations not just for direct quotes, but also for facts, figures and ideas from a source.
- 2. They are learning.

## Plagiarism also means...

- Paraphrasing-even if words are changed and reorganized, a citation is required.
- Summarizing-even if there is a concise or “boiled down” rewrite, a citation of original source is required.



**Anytime you quote or paraphrase or summarize, you must cite a source.**

The irony of the situation, of course, is that most college-level course work teaches ethical values, empathy, and integrity. When students are panicked for whatever reason, finishing and submitting an assignment is more important than being ethical.

# Hubris

- ▶ Hubris or hybris (Greek ὕβρις), according to its modern usage, is exaggerated self pride or self-confidence (overbearing pride), often resulting in fatal retribution. In Ancient Greece, "hubris" referred to actions taken in order to shame the victim, thereby making oneself seem superior.
- ▶ Hubris was a crime in classical Athens. The category of acts constituting hubris for the ancient Greeks apparently broadened from the original specific reference to molestation of a corpse, or a humiliation of a defeated foe, to molestation, or "outrageous treatment", in general. The meaning was further generalized in its modern English usage to apply to any outrageous act or exhibition of pride or disregard for basic moral law. Such an act may be referred to as an "act of hubris", or the person committing the act may be said to be hubristic.

**"I didn't know."**

**"She won't notice."**

**"I didn't have time."**

**"I don't care."**

**What does the SAC student code of conduct say??**

## Plagiarism / Scholastic Dishonesty

For various reasons, the number of incidents of scholastic dishonesty in the classroom has increased throughout the nation in recent years. It is in the student's best interest that scholastic dishonesty not be tolerated and that the Alamo Colleges District's policies and procedures be followed so as to provide consistent college-wide enforcement. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on exams, tests, and quizzes; plagiarism; and collusion.

See the **Student Code of Conduct** for more detailed information.

**Cheating on exams, tests and quizzes** includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another student's test paper;
- Using materials during a test that are not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating with another student during a test without authority;
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting, in whole or in part, the contents of a test without the consent of the instructor;
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for one's self, to take a test;
- Bribing or otherwise influencing another person to obtain a test not authorized for distribution by the instructor; and
- Reporting fraudulent research results.
- **Plagiarism is the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work into one's own coursework/assignment including the taking and using of ideas, passages, etc. Plagiarism is scholastic dishonesty and will result in disciplinary action.**
- **Collusion** is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing any coursework/assignment.
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# How is plagiarism found?

- Nowadays, it is extremely easy to discover plagiarism. If you found something in the internet, chances are, your instructor will too.
- Plenty of plagiarism detector tools are available- some are free
- The Alamo Colleges campuses offer Turnitin, a tool to help students provide an authentic paper

# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Also called  
“common  
knowledge.”

## What is not Plagiarism?

- ❑ Facts available in a wide variety of sources.
- ❑ Simple, non-specific, general data.



# **In the English-speaking world, people believe that ideas and written expressions of ideas can be owned.**

When an author writes down a particular set of words and phrases expressing a specific idea, this author in effect owns those words and that idea. Therefore to use these words without giving the author credit is to steal them. This is very different, for example, from the Chinese idea that words and ideas belong to the culture and the society and should be shared by all individuals (Myers 11).

[see MIT Comparative Media Studies/Writing – Avoiding Plagiarism]

**“Americans believe that writing is a visible, concrete demonstration of a writer’s knowledge, insight, and academic skill.** In other words, there are many cultural differences in the way people use the ideas and language of others. In the USA, plagiarism is a serious offense. So, in spite of what your own home culture says and feels about the use of others’ ideas, the old advice “when in Rome, do as the Romans do”—applies to the use of sources—”when in the United States (and several other western countries), cite sources.”

<http://cmsw.mit.edu/writing-and-communication-center/avoiding-plagiarism/>

**THUS, TO REPRESENT ANOTHER PERSON’S WRITING AS YOUR OWN IS TO MISREPRESENT YOUR OWN ACCOMPLISHMENTS.**

**THIS IS A TYPE OF FRAUD OR DECEPTION.**

[WWW.CALSTATELA.EDU/LIBRARY/RESEARCH/IL10.HTM](http://WWW.CALSTATELA.EDU/LIBRARY/RESEARCH/IL10.HTM) (17 SEP. 2007)

The handouts provided by the SAC Writing Center & their methods applied consistently will PREVENT plagiarism:

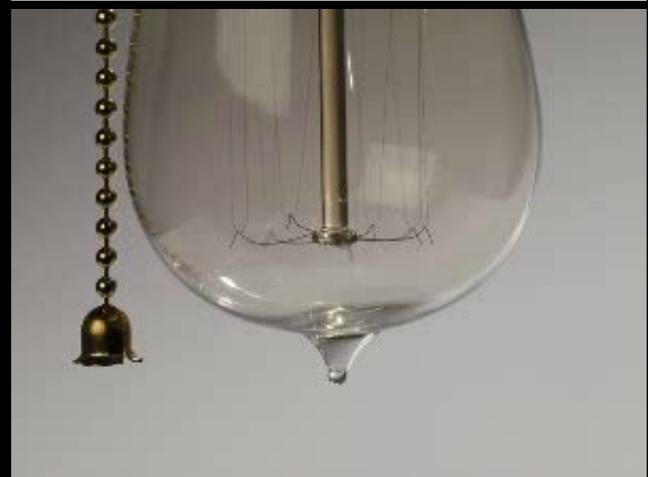
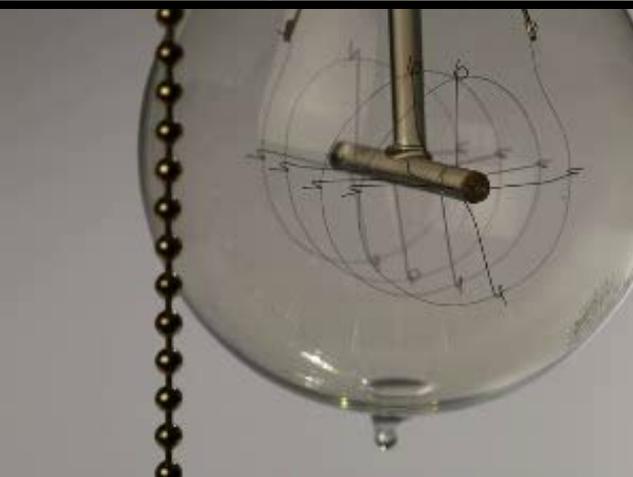
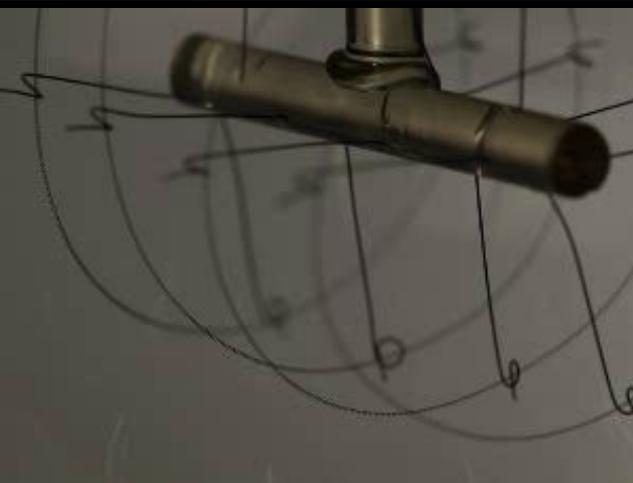
But if you don't use them, don't consistently prepare and use enough time to excel, your assignments will reflect inattention .

# Works Cited

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*Thomas Alva Edison*