**Secondary Sources, A.I., and Plagiarism**

There are contradictions in academic writing.

Writers must:

… show they have done research …

… but they must write something new and original.

…use experts and authorities to get information …

…but that information must either be improved or disagreed with.

… improve their English by mimicking what is heard and read …

… but they must use their own words and not mimic too closely.

… show when they have used other people’s ideas …

… but make their own significant contribution.

What is plagiarism? Here is a definition:

**Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas**

**and passing them off as one’s own.**

The part of “**someone else’s work or ideas**” includes:

1. just copying the idea

2. paraphrasing the idea too closely

3. the someone = A.I.

Actions that are considered plagiarism or cheating:

1. Buying, stealing, or borrowing a paper.
2. Using the source too closely when paraphrasing.
3. Hiring someone to write your paper.
4. Building on someone’s ideas ***without citation*** (on purpose or on accident).
5. Using A.I. (like ChatGPT) when your instructor clearly says do not use it.

**In most academic situations,**

**plagiarism or cheating = course failure,**

**semester failure, or expulsion from school.**

A.I. (like Chat GPT) is nothing more than a tool. It is a good tool for **some situations**, but it is not the right tool for **all situations**. Students need to learn how to use the tools, as there is **appropriate use of a tool** and **inappropriate use of a tool**.

Example: just because a hammer is a good tool does not mean it is the right tool when you have screws instead of nails.

 A group of screws and a screw

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Why not use A.I. or ChatGPT when writing an English essay or report?

Using A.I. or ChatGPT for English writing means:

1. Students are **not applying** their English abilities.

2. Students are **not showing** what they know about English.

3. Students are **not improving** their English abilities when writing.

4. Instructors **want to grade students**, not A.I. or ChatGPT.

5. Students have difficulty distinguishing **good A.I. output** from **bad A.I. output**.

**Exercise for Practice**

Deliberate Plagiarism / Cheating Possibly Accidental Plagiarism / Cheating

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Here are some example situations. Is the writer in danger of plagiarizing or cheating? Put a ✔️ if a citation / reference / quotations marks are needed. Explain your answers.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ You are writing new ideas about your own experiences.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ You are explaining ideas from a newspaper article about which you disagree.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ You use some information from a website, but you do not use the exact same words.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ You have no way of expressing the exact meaning of a text without using the original source exactly word for word.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ You want to include in your report or essay a story that one of your classmates told about her experiences.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ The quote you want to use is too long, so you do not use all of it.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ You really like the particular phrase somebody else made up, so you use it.

8. \_\_\_\_\_ You use A.I. to translate a webpage into English, and then you use the English on that page in your report.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ You use any A.I. or ChatGPT when your instructor told you not to.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ You use Microsoft WORD’s spellchecker and grammar checker when writing your report.