Plagiarism Is Stealing!

What is Plagiarism?

- Essentially, plagiarism is stealing. When you take another person’s thoughts, ideas, or words and pass them off as your own, you’re a plagiarizer.
- Plagiarism doesn’t just happen with writing projects. If you use someone else’s artwork, spoken words, or computer graphics, without giving them credit, you are a plagiarizer.
- It doesn’t matter if you meant to plagiarize or not. Even if you “forgot” to cite your sources or “didn’t know” you had to cite your sources, you’re still a plagiarizer.
- Plagiarizers are thieves, and in our society, thieves are punished. The punishment for plagiarizing is a zero on the assignment. In some colleges, you will fail the course and/or be expelled.
- There are 5 major types of plagiarism: Copy & Paste, Word Switch, Style, Metaphor, and Idea.

How to avoid plagiarism:

- Always, always, always, cite your sources, using internal citation and a Works Cited page.
- Always put work that is quoted directly from a source in quotation marks.
- You must cite information that you paraphrase.

Plagiarism Loopholes That DON’T Work:

- You cannot string together a bunch of quotes and/or paraphrased material, even if you’ve properly cited them, and turn that in as your research paper. Research assignments require that you interpret your information to make observations or conclusions about your topic. The majority of your paper should be your own original writing, using quotes and paraphrased material to support your position, not the other way around.
- You cannot copy and paste an entire piece of writing or even several paragraphs of a piece of writing, put quotes at the beginning of the copied material and then at the very end, and honestly think you’ve cited your material properly. Seriously, students have really done this!

Common Myths About Plagiarism:

http://www.nvcc.edu/home/dashkenas/PLAGIARISM.htm