

# Academic Ethics - Plagiarism



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**ethics** (n) A set of principles of right conduct.

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition  
2000. Houghton Mifflin Company.

**eth·ics** n.

The rules or standards governing the conduct of a person  
or the conduct of the members of a profession.

The American Heritage Stedman's Medical Dictionary 2001,  
Houghton Mifflin Company.

Application of socially-accepted standards is a key element  
of responsible scientific practice".

National Academy of Sciences, USA,

# Science is social

Indeed, an ongoing process of review (by others) and review

1. Minimizes *influence* of individual subjectivity
2. Powerful inducement for self-criticism

This social aspect generates and sustains the techniques, conventions and the 'methods' that scientists use, and they evolve over time.

Science has also changed over the past decade,  
with:

- more collaboration
- more large projects
- more money
- more scrutiny from society

All this makes the good practice of science more  
important

The stakes are, in some sense, higher

# Science Ethics

Core values of Science include:

honesty, skepticism, fairness, collegiality, openness

--when in doubt, get many opinions

# Areas of science governed by ethical stand

1. Treatment of data
2. Value (and scepticism)
3. Conflicts of interest
4. Publication and openness
5. Allocation of credit
6. Authorship
7. Error:
  1. honest
  2. negligent
  3. dishonest
8. Dealing with unethical practice by colleagues
9. Responsibilities to 'society'

## Categories of Scientific Misconduct

**Fabrication:** making up experiments, data

**Falsification:** changing results, data without statistical justification

**Plagiarism:** appropriating the words or ideas of another and presenting them as one's own

Falsification: changing data

Fabrication: making up data

Plagiarism: using words or ideas without proper attribution

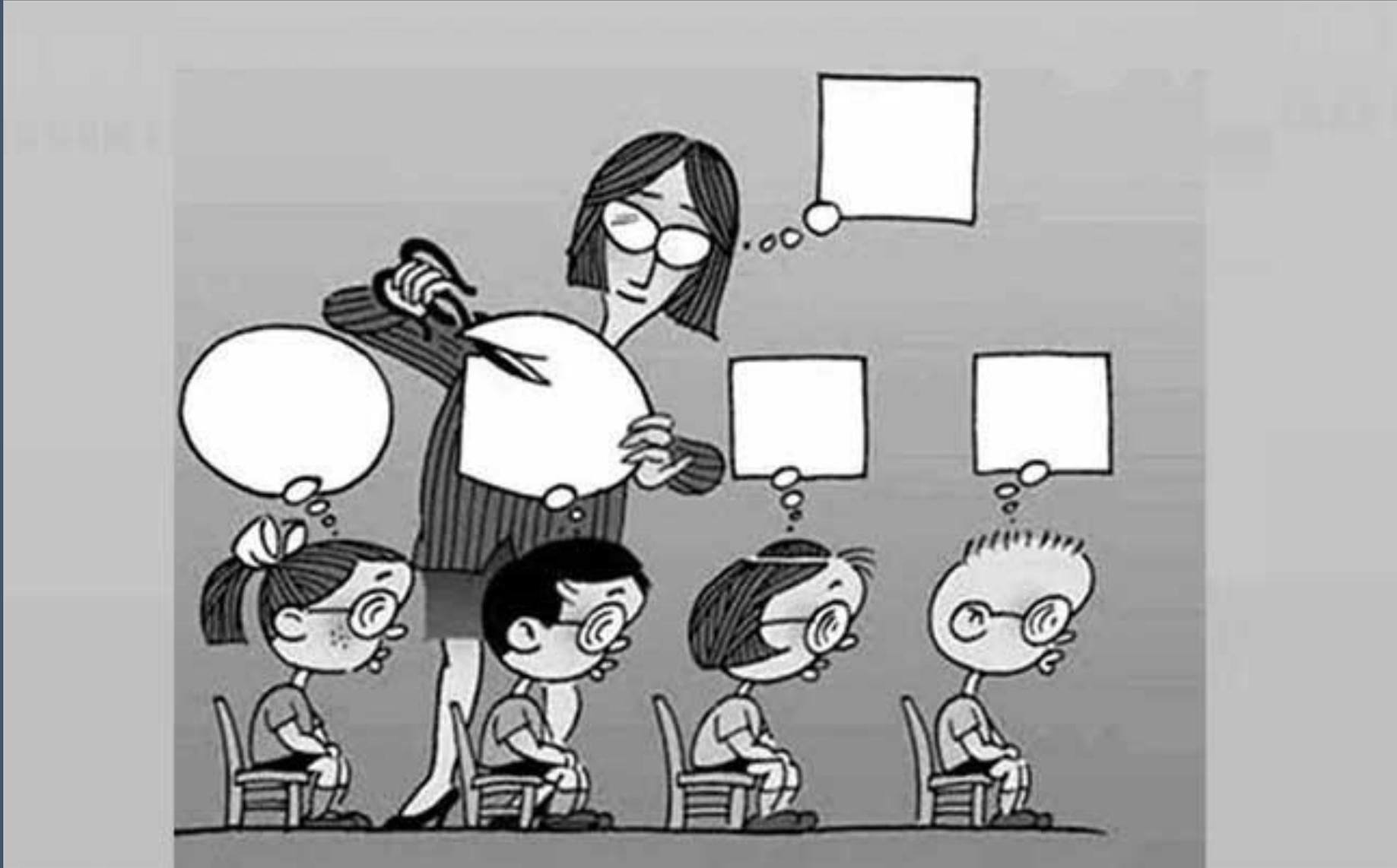


Lying

Cheating

Copying

What behaviors are rewarded and reinforced??



## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words or ideas without proper acknowledgement

All research is based on a foundation of scientific knowledge.

Anytime you write about this knowledge, you must cite the source unless the information is common knowledge

"you find the same information undocumented in at least five other sources," or "you think a person could easily find the information with general reference sources."

*(OWL at Purdue University: Avoiding Plagiarism: Printable Handouts, [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html))*

Is it possible to plagiarize your own words?

Self-plagiarism (academic) is when you publish the same work and/or submit the same work for credit in two different classes/journals/etc

In the case of published work, copyright infringement issues take over:

Publication typically involves transferring copyright to the publisher (with the stipulation that it isn't being submitted elsewhere simultaneously).

Once the transfer is effected, "your words" belong to the publisher.

Recycling of paragraphs or phrases from your published work becomes copyright infringement!

# Top 10 Kinds of Plagiarism



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## REMIX

A remixed plagiarism is realized when a writer paraphrases content from various sources to come up with a content that fits together impeccably.



## CLONE

This involves presenting someone's work word for word without making any changes to the original text and omitting citation of the source.

# Top 10 Kinds of Plagiarism



## 404 ERROR

This form of plagiarism uses citations to sources that either don't exist or are inaccurate. The name 404 Error is derived from the error message appearing when someone attempts to access an invalid or unavailable online resource.



## RETWEET

In as much as the source is properly quoted, this type of plagiarism occurs when the writer depends too much on the original text wording and sentence construction.

# Top 10 Kinds of Plagiarism



## HYBRID

This is when a writer embeds a well referenced source with content from other sources but does not cite all the text. Such text ends up crediting fewer sources than were actually used.



## CTRL-C

The majority of the plagiarised text is exactly the same as the original text with minimal changes made. It is almost akin to cloning but here the writer only makes few changes to the original text.

# Top 10 Kinds of Plagiarism



## **FIND- REPLACE**

Another interesting approach to plagiarising is when only the key words and phrases of the original text are replaced with synonyms or closely related words.



## **Recycle**

This is arguably the most modest forms of plagiarism where the writer uses his or her own previously produced content and fails to properly provide citation. It is also known as self-plagiarism.

# Top 10 Kinds of Plagiarism



## **MASHUP**

This is content obtained from an array of different sources and is presented without the appropriate citation.



## **AGGREGATOR**

Although the writer includes proper citation, the entire work is mostly composed of citations and lacks original content.

## Original Writing

-Importance of getting used to doing your own writing

-But everything important has already been said and better than you can say it.

There is a reason why academic writing is work – you have to bring your own voice to it.

# How to avoid the Pitfall of Plagiarism?

-Quote

-Appropriately paraphrase

-Summarize in your own words

-Cite your sources!!

# “Quoting, Paraphrasing, Summarizing” – Academic Integrity

<https://integrity.mit.edu/>

# Useful Links

<https://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/plagiarism/students.cfm>

<https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/judicial-board/academic-honesty-and-plagiarism/common-types-of-plagiarism.html>

<https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/what-plagiarism>

<https://www.aje.com/arc/plagiarism-in-academic-writing-how-to-identify-and-avoid-it/>

<https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/plagiarism>