




4th ANNUAL WINTER SYMPOSIUM
RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

Plagiarism

Maurine Linder
January 25, 2016



Plagiarism: misrepresenting someone else's creative work (e.g. words, methods, pictures, ideas, or data) as one's own.

From Glossary of Commonly Used Terms in Research Ethics
D.B. Resnik, NIEHS, NIH, May 2015

Based on Shamo AE and Resnik DB, Responsible Conduct of Research,
3rd ed. (New York:Oxford University Press, 2015)

Research Misconduct

Department of Health and Human Services

- Fabrication
- Falsification
- Plagiarism

Misrepresentation of another's work as one's own is a violation of the Cornell Code of Academic Integrity.

How Senator John Walsh Plagiarized a Final Paper

Senator John Walsh of Montana took most of a 2007 final paper required for his master's degree from the United States Army War College from other sources without proper attribution. Mr. Walsh [copies an entire page](#) nearly word-for-word from a Harvard paper, and [each of his six conclusions is copied](#) from a document from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace without attribution. JULY 23, 2014 | [RELATED ARTICLE](#)

Story by JONATHAN MARTIN. Graphic by JOSH KELLER, MATTHEW ERICSON, and NICK CORASANITI.

■ Passages taken **without attribution** ■ Passages with **improper attribution**, including using other authors' language without quotations.



<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/07/23/us/politics/john-walsh-final-paper-plagiarism.html>

Example of plagiarism of words and ideas



Consequences

- Withdrew from the senate race in August 2014
- In October 2014, the War College rescinded Senator Walsh's master's degree

What did Senator Walsh do wrong?

- Plagiarism of words
 - “Throughout the paper Mr. Walsh cites the work of other authors in footnotes, but **uses their exact – or almost exact – language** without quotation marks.” NY Times
- Plagiarism of ideas
 - The six major conclusions of the paper were copied from another document without a citation, implying that the conclusions are original.

When writing about the work of others, cite the original source and paraphrase or use quotations marks.

Understanding Plagiarism: Authorship & Publication

*In acknowledging the work of others,
you demonstrate that you:*

- *Comprehend* others' ideas
- *Respect* other scholars, including peers
- *Prove the value* of your own original ideas
- *Uphold the **integrity*** of your own ideas as well as those of others, and in the context of funded research, the integrity of Cornell and the funding agency

Detection of Plagiarism

- Turnitin
- CrossCheck
 - Part of CrossRef, a publishing association
 - Plagiarism screening
 - Database of journal content
 - iThenticate software to screen submissions

How to recognize and avoid plagiarism?

Take the quiz -

<https://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/exercises.cfm>

Use the resources to help you write

- Tutorial and helpful tools specific to Cornell policies and practices
<https://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm>
- Dealing with Plagiarism in the digital world, and some faculty perspectives on plagiarism
<https://digitalliteracy.cornell.edu/tutorial/dpl3320.html>
- Tips and advice from Weill Cornell Medicine on how to avoid plagiarism
<http://weill.cornell.edu/education/curriculum/plagiarism.html>
- Cornell's copyright information center
copyright.cornell.edu
- From the Cornell Library, tips for TAs and students on how to detect and avoid plagiarism
<http://guides.library.cornell.edu/c.php?g=154319&p=1368714>
<http://guides.library.cornell.edu/c.php?g=31661&p=1396897>

Self-plagiarism

Definition: “reusing one’s own work without proper attribution or citation. Some people do not view self-plagiarism as plagiarism because it does not involve intellectual theft”.

Shamoo and Resnik 2015

Lehrer Apologizes for Recycling Work, While New Yorker Says It Won't Happen Again

By JENNIFER SCHUESSLER JUNE 20, 2012 4:03 PM  45 Comments

The science writer Jonah Lehrer, author of the runaway bestseller [“Imagine: How Creativity Works,”](#) has become the latest high-profile journalist to be caught up in a plagiarism scandal, with a counterintuitive twist that could come right out of his own books: The journalist he has been accused of borrowing from is himself.

Duplicate or redundant publication

- Publish the same intellectual material twice as original research
- Submit to two journals simultaneously
 - Violation of journal policies
- When is this acceptable?
 - Publish the same work in your thesis and in a journal
 - Primary data in an original research paper; reprint **with permission and attribution** in a review or methods paper
 - Grant applications - reuse of text and figures is acceptable when submitting to multiple agencies
 - Be aware of copyright

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<http://ori.hhs.gov/avoiding-plagiarism-self-plagiarism-and-other-questionable-writing-practices-guide-ethical-writing>

Cases

- LaCroix - Reuse of sentences and a paragraph describing methods from prior publications in a review by the same authors
 - Questions about ethics of reusing one's own text
 - Resolving an authorship issue
- Dornfeld – Plagiarism of ideas
 - Plan experiments based on data in a paper under review
 - Confidentiality of the review process; mentor-student relationship

Schedule and Logistics

- Small-group case study discussions
- Begin with the case that is face-up in your folders
 - LaCroix case - Self plagiarism; authorship
 - Dornfeld case – Plagiarism of ideas
- Each group will contribute a question for the panel – runners will collect the questions
- Reconvene for the panel discussion
- Final comments
- Lunch

Topics for lab meeting discussions

- Best practices in ethical writing
- Ethical review of manuscripts and proposals
- Take the quiz!
- <https://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/exercises.cfm>

“Who you gonna call?”*

- DGS, Special Committee, Department Chair
- Amita Verma – Research Integrity Officer for Cornell University av234@cornell.edu
- Dr. Jan Allen, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Cornell Graduate School
- University Ombudsman - ombudsman@cornell.edu

* *Ghostbusters* theme song



Thank you!

- ORIA, CVM Office of Graduate Education, Molecular Medicine Staff
- Andy Bass
- Discussion group leaders