



ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PLAGIARISM

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Plagiarism is taken very seriously as the aim of the University is to encourage you to make well-informed original work.

What is plagiarism?

Within the University's Code of Practice on Student Discipline (Academic) are three forms of plagiarism. They are as follows:

"Plagiarism is the use, without adequate acknowledgment, of the intellectual work of another person in work submitted for assessment."

"Self-plagiarism is the duplication of work for assessment by submitting coursework containing material identical, or substantially similar to material which has already been submitted by the same student for any other assessment."

"Collusion is defined as collaboration between students in an assignment that has not been authorised by the course coordinator. It does not refer to authorised group work that is assessed by a single group report."

How can you avoid plagiarism?

- Plan your work! Make sure you have a list of all the sources you're going to use so you know where to reference appropriately when it comes to integrating them into your work.
- When in doubt, reference. Of course, you want to show your marker that you've been able to grasp an idea and argue with it well, but there may be a point where you're unsure whether the particular idea came from you. Make sure you reference your sources to cover your back; the originality of your idea will be further supported by referencing appropriately because this will highlight the clear distinctions between your own voice and the idea from the source.
- Ensure you've read over the Good Writing Guide that is made available to you at the beginning of your course. It's better if you keep it open as you do your work so you can constantly refer to it.
- Finally, ask your lecturers! That's what they're there for. If you're unsure of something, just ask.