

Hello, today we'll be discussing "what is plagiarism?" Plagiarism is to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another, or to use someone's work without crediting the source. This includes people's ideas, exact words, artistic creations, and more.

So, what's the problem? If I agree with what someone says, why can't I just repeat it? The problem occurs because the original person isn't getting credit for their great idea, and you may be taking away their ability to benefit from it.

Who really cares about 'plagiarism' in the real world? A lot of people, actually! Plagiarism is a big deal, even outside of college.

For example, listen to this clip from the Marvin Gaye 1977 song "Got to Give It Up." [on screen text: "Got to Give It Up" (1977) - performed by Marvin Gaye, written/produced by Art Stewart].

Now, listen to Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams 2013 song "Blurred Lines." [on screen text: "Blurred Lines" (2013) - performed by Robin Thicke, Pharrell Williams, & T.I. produced by Pharrell Williams]

Notice any similarities? In 2018, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that this was plagiarism. Gayes's family received \$5.3 million, along with 50% of future royalties generated by "Blurred Lines." Woah!

So, plagiarism is a big deal and can have serious consequences. How do we avoid accidentally plagiarizing? The safest thing is to only use someone else's ideas, words, or creations with permission. [on screen text: Ideally get permission from the author/creator.]

But wait, you might be asking how does that work? We need to be able to repeat what people say, don't we? And hey, what a minute... this video just played clips of those two songs!

Using small portions of someone else's ideas, words, or creations is legally allowed in the United States under "Fair Use" laws. [on screen text: Section 107 of the Copyright Act allows limited fair use.]

"Fair Use" is complicated and subject to interpretation, and we encourage you to learn more about it. For now, you just need to know that you can legally use small parts of someone's work, but you still need to let people know where it came from so no one thinks it is your own original work.

We do that through citations. Citations are a way to clearly let the reader (or viewer, if it is a video) know that something is the idea, words, or creation of someone else. In colleges and universities, the three citation styles most commonly used are APA, MLA, and Chicago. You'll learn more about these citation styles later in this tutorial.

Sources:

[reuters.com/article/us-music-blurredlines/marvin-gaye-family-prevails-in-blurred-lines-plagiarism-case-idUSKBN1GX27P](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-music-blurredlines/marvin-gaye-family-prevails-in-blurred-lines-plagiarism-case-idUSKBN1GX27P)

[de.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Marvin_Gaye_\(1973\).png](https://de.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Datei:Marvin_Gaye_(1973).png) (image in public domain)

commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Robin_Thicke_performing.jpg (image used with permission)

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Clips from "Got to Give It Up" (1977, Marvin Gaye) and "Blurred Lines" (2013, Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams) are used without permission of the copyright holders. These small excerpts are used here for the purposes of commentary and criticism within the realm of fair use of copyrighted materials (copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html).