

## STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

### 1. What is Plagiarism?

There are many definitions of plagiarism floating about. For our purposes, plagiarism is defined as:

Failure to acknowledge the use of another's ideas, phrasing/language, or other materials and to duly credit your sources. This applies not only to deliberate lack of acknowledgement; negligent or careless failure to acknowledge and credit borrowed materials is also plagiarism.

Common knowledge need not be cited, and failure to do so is not plagiarism. "The earth is round." Fine. No citation needed.

Citation is necessary for both direct and indirect borrowing of material. Whether you quote, summarize, or paraphrase, you must give credit to the original author(s). The mechanics of citation vary case by case (when do you need quotation marks? page numbers?) and are addressed in citation guides. The important point for the purposes of this guide to academic integrity is that you must cite when you reference someone else's work.

MIT's academic integrity guidelines summarize the problem nicely:

*If you use the words, ideas, or phrasing of another person or from published material, you must*

- *Use quotation marks around the words **and** cite the source, or*
- *Paraphrase or summarize acceptably **and** cite the source.*

*If you use charts, graphs, data sets, or numerical information obtained from another person or from published material, you must also cite the source.*

***You must always acknowledge your sources by citing them.** In this way, you have the right to use another's creative output by giving that person credit for the work s/he has done.*

### 2. Why is Plagiarism a Problem?

First, plagiarism is dishonest. We pair the concepts of plagiarism and academic honesty/integrity because they are opposites. In other words, plagiarism is cheating. Because plagiarism covers a wide spectrum of cheating behaviors, it can be subtler and less deliberate than copying your classmate's test homework or test answers, faking lab results, etc., but plagiarism is an equally severe infraction that will result in equally severe consequences.

In Japanese, plagiarism is called *tōsaku* (盗作), which means "stealing (someone's) work." *Stealing*. It is theft of intellectual property, in this case the words or ideas of another person or group. You may not come from an intellectual or academic culture in which copying like this is discouraged, but Nagoya University belongs to an intellectual and academic culture in which it is absolutely essential to indicate the providence of the words and ideas we borrow in order to make our own arguments.

Second, plagiarism detracts from your education. Stealing the work of others does not help you learn.

Harvard's undergraduate Writing Program puts it this way:

*Academic writing is essentially an ongoing conversation among scholars. As a college student, you are part of the community of scholars who are working to answer genuine questions in their fields by building on the knowledge and ideas that others have contributed. When you use sources to write a paper, you have the responsibility to represent others' ideas accurately and to contribute your own ideas to the discussion. Your professors expect you to do your own thinking, and they assign research and writing so that you can figure out what you think rather than reporting or parroting someone else's thoughts. You actually don't learn anything when you take your ideas from someone else; you learn by analyzing the ideas you have read about and developing your own responses to them.*

### 3. Avoiding Plagiarism

There are many excellent sources on the internet from prestigious higher learning institutions around the globe. Here are a few that can serve as preliminary guides for understanding academic integrity and avoiding plagiarism:

OWL @ Purdue

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

One of the best and most comprehensive academic writing sites for students. The link to Avoiding Plagiarism is on the right side of the top page, but the entire OWL (Online Writing Lab) site is worth exploring more fully.

Student's Guide to Writing in East Asian Studies @ Harvard

[http://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/writing\\_in\\_east\\_asian\\_studies.pdf](http://writingproject.fas.harvard.edu/files/hwp/files/writing_in_east_asian_studies.pdf)

A general writing guide for East Asian studies. Includes a link to the Harvard College Writing Program's "Guide to Using Sources," which in turn has a link to Avoiding Plagiarism.

Academic Integrity @ MIT

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

A simply written guide to academic honesty/integrity. Pay particular attention to the section on Writing Original Work.

This flowchart can help self-diagnose plagiarism.

### 4. Consequences of Plagiarism in JACS Courses

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. Many institutions of higher learning consider it

serious enough to warrant immediate course failure and/or expulsion.

JACS recognizes both the seriousness of academic dishonesty and the fact that you are students, in other words learners. Nobody is perfect, and we all deserve an opportunity to grow, learn, and overcome our past mistakes. We will do our best to assist you in avoiding plagiarism, and will be sensitive to the reality that mistakes happen. To avoid putting the faculty in the position of determining what is accidental and what is deliberate, cite thoroughly and proofread even more thoroughly. You should all be proofreading your own work anyway prior to submission, so make citations a part of that process. Better yet, have a friend look at your work, and do the same for her. An extra pair of eyes is a good thing.

With that in mind, you should be aware that dire consequences await plagiarism. You will receive *no credit* for any deliberately plagiarized assignment, or one that exhibits gross negligence of these guidelines. Egregious or repeated academic dishonesty will result in *course failure* and potential *expulsion* from the JACS program.

## 5. Sources

The following sources were used in the preparation of this guide:

- Council of Writing Program Administrators. 2014. "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices." <http://wpacouncil.org/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf>.
- MIT. 2015. "Academic Integrity at MIT." Accessed February 20. <https://integrity.mit.edu/>.
- President and Fellows of Harvard College. 2015. "Harvard Guide to Using Sources." <http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>.
- thevisualcommunicationguy.com. 2014. "Did I Plagiarize? The Types and Severity of Plagiarism Violations." <http://i.kinja-img.com/gawker-media/image/upload/svf7tixzpsrghcov2w8e.jpg>.
- Writing Lab, OWL at Purdue, and Purdue University. 2015. "Purdue OWL." <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>.