What is plagiarism?

According to Random House Webster's College Dictionary (1999) plagiarism is: "1. the unauthorized use of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own. 2. something used and represented in this manner" (p. 1007).

- It is the ideas and thoughts of others as well as the wording that should be credited. This can include someone's artistic, musical, or literary work.

Sound a little confusing? Simply put, if you copy, word for word, from any other source and do not use **quotation marks and a complete citation**, you have plagiarized someone else's work.

- **Direct quotes** *must* have both quotation marks and a complete citation.

If you read someone else's work and then write that information down in your own words but do not cite it, you have just plagiarized someone else's work.

- **Paraphrased** or **summarized** ideas should be cited.

If you use facts, figures, or any kind of statistics the source must be cited.

- When in doubt, cite it!

If you have questions about when to cite, what to cite, or how to cite it-- talk to your instructor, a tutor, or check with your library staff.

- Examples of both Modern Language Association (MLA) and American Psychological Association (APA) citation styles are available in the library.

Reference: