Understanding Plagiarism:  
* a guide for international students  

Plagiarism is one of the most common Honor Code offenses for international students because different cultures have different ideas about the definition of this term. Below is some information and resources that will help you to better understand how to avoid problems. **Even if you make a mistake, you may still be held accountable and sent to hearing with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, which can potentially result in being asked to leave ODU (suspension or expulsion).** More information on the Honor Code will be provided during International Student Orientation.

**What is Plagiarism?**

"Plagiarism: A student will have committed plagiarism if he or she reproduces someone else's work without acknowledging its source; or if a source is cited which the student has not cited or used. Examples of plagiarism include: submitting a research paper obtained from a commercial research service, the Internet, or from another student as if it were original work; making simple changes to borrowed materials while leaving the organization, content, or phraseology intact; or copying material from a source, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks. Plagiarism also occurs in a group project if one or more of the members of the group does none of the group's work and participates in none of the group's activities, but attempts to take credit for the work of the group.” - *ODU Disciplinary Policies*

**The following checklist is provided by the Old Dominion University Writing Center with tips to help avoid plagiarism:**

- Using a sequence of sentences or word language of another author's work is considered an act of plagiarism.
- Downloading information from the Internet or any other electronic database product to include in your paper, without citing its source, is considered an act of plagiarism.
- Paraphrasing does not mean you do not need cite the source.
- Changing a few words of another author's work it still considered an act of plagiarism.
- Learn how to cite your sources using the appropriate style manual.
- Keep careful notes and documentation as you do your research.
- It is advisable not to use too many quotes in your paper. Remember the paper should be made up of your own ideas and arguments.
- Cite ideas from other sources when they add weight to your own argument or ideas.
- Learn how to paraphrase wisely using your own words and citing the source appropriately.
- Use quotation marks even if a footnote is provided.
- Always quote the exact words of an author and surround them in quotation marks, citing the source within the body of the text and in the reference list.
- If you are not sure whether to cite a source, cite it.
- Do not start your paper the night before your paper is due. This may cause you to stress out enough to "cut corners."

**The following website also has tips to help understand what constitutes plagiarism:**

- [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/)

Remember: If you are not sure, **ASK!** Your professor, department tutors, and the Writing Center are all available to assist you. The Writing Center is located in Room 1307 of the Learning Commons in the Perry Library and can be reached at 757.683.4013.