Plagiarism
What It Is & How to Avoid It
Definition (taken from The Council of Writing Program Adminstrators’ website, wpa.org)

What Is Plagiarism?

Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.
Most current discussions of plagiarism fail to distinguish between:

1. submitting someone else’s text as one’s own or attempting to blur the line between one’s own ideas or words and those borrowed from another source, and
2. carelessly or inadequately citing ideas and words borrowed from another source.
Is It Plagiarism Yet? (taken from Purdue Owl)

- Unquestionable plagiarism
  (intentional)
- “Gray area” plagiarism
  (unintentional)
  - personal story
  - depends on the teacher/Prof
Types of Plagiarism (www.plagiarism.org)

- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not
When do we give credit? (taken from Purdue Owl)

- Words or ideas from magazines, books, newspapers, songs, TV shows...
- Information gained through interviews
- When copying word-for-word information
- When reprinting diagrams, illustrations, charts, tables, etc.
- When reusing electronically posted media like images, audio, video, etc.

Bottom line, document any words, ideas, or other productions that originate somewhere outside of you.
The following do not need documentation or credit:
(taken from Purdue Owl)

- Your own lived experiences
- Writing up your own results
- Your own work (artwork, photos, etc.)
- “Common knowledge” information (see next slide)
- Generally accepted facts (pollution is bad for the environment)
“Common Knowledge” (taken from Purdue Owl)

If you can find the same information undocumented in at least five credible sources.

If it’s something your readers will already know, or something that a person could easily find in general reference sources.

WHEN IN DOUBT, CITE IT!!!
Three Ways of Incorporating Researched Info

❖ Summary
❖ Paraphrase
❖ Quote

*Next up: View some examples of how to quote and paraphrase using in-text citations in MLA format.*