

Engineering Plagiarism Quiz: Overview

As students and later as professionals in the workplace, we are tasked with representing the best of Jesuit-Mercy values in everything we do. This applies to the documents, presentations and other work we produce. One way to adhere to these values is to understand and practice integrity in our research and writing.

This Plagiarism Quiz will help you think about your role in creating usable, accurate information. And, hopefully, the Quiz will promote discussion in your classes not just this semester but throughout your college career.

So, while this is a “quiz,” it’s not just about answering all the questions correctly. Plagiarism is a complicated topic, and your understanding of it should mature as you grow and develop as a college student and then as a professional in the workplace.

The Quiz has three parts: The Quiz, Answers & Explanations, and References. The References at the end are formatted in American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) style.

Your instructor will probably ask you to complete the Quiz before you look at the answers. The Answers and Explanations can be used for individual checking after or for class discussion. The References will help you learn more about the different aspects of writing and researching with integrity.

Good luck!

Engineering Plagiarism Quiz

1. Defining Plagiarism and Its Problems

Here’s how one professional engineering association defined plagiarism and its consequences.

“IEEE defines plagiarism as the reuse of someone else's prior processes, results, or words without explicitly acknowledging the original author and source. It is important for all IEEE authors to recognize that plagiarism in any form, at any level, is unacceptable and is considered a serious breach of professional conduct, with potentially severe ethical and legal consequences.” [1]

Q. Plagiarism is considered a serious offense in academic and professional life. Below are two types of statements: Consequences of plagiarizing and reasons people plagiarize. Which of the following statements accurately describes a possible consequence for a writer who has been found to have plagiarized? Choose all that apply.

- A. Plagiarism is stealing since a student/employee uses another’s work without giving credit. Thus, the student/employee who is found to be a plagiarist may be considered dishonest.
- B. Plagiarizing can harm a writer’s academic or professional reputation if they are perceived as dishonest.
- C. Plagiarizing minimizes the writer’s chances for learning about a topic or generating new ideas about it.

- D. Students caught plagiarizing can fail a class at university while employees who plagiarize may be sued in the workplace.
- E. Since sources may be difficult to find for online information, writers may omit references for websites and other electronic sources.
- F. Writers may not know that graphic images, audio and film, and other original works can be copyrighted or patented. Thus, they fail to cite them or provide references and may be charged with plagiarizing.
- G. Studies show university students understand plagiarism and its consequences but report copying information without citing anyway, often because of looming deadlines.
- H. Some writers are willing to risk their reputations and lawsuits because they believe information should be shared freely in a global workplace. Since they believe plagiarism laws are outdated, they choose not to use in-text citations or offer a references list.

2. When to Cite: General vs. Specialized Knowledge

Q. Can you tell the difference between general knowledge in your field (which does not need to be cited) and specialized knowledge in your field (which does need to be cited)? Which is the example of general knowledge? Choose A or B.

A. Marie Curie was the first scientist to win two Nobel Prizes for Science. [2]

B. "In their Miyagi, Japan laboratories, beginning in 1924, Professor Hidetsugu Yagi and his assistant, Shintaro Uda, designed and constructed a sensitive and highly-directional antenna using closely-coupled parasitic elements. The antenna, which is effective in the higher-frequency ranges, has been important for radar, television, and amateur radio." [3]

3. When to Cite: Direct Quotations

Q. When should you use a direct quote instead of paraphrasing original text? Choose all that apply.

A. When the level of technical content and language cannot be reproduced in other words, it is best to do a direct quote. [4]

B. Don't. Scholarly and workplace publishers suggest relying on paraphrasing versus direct quotations since paraphrasing shows that the writer understands the original content.

4. When to Cite: Paraphrasing

Q. Paraphrasing from another's work shows that the student understands the work well enough to put it into their own words. What are the three requirements of an effective paraphrase? Choose the three answers that apply.

A. The paraphrase uses the writer's own words. [5]

B. The paraphrase uses the writer's own sentence structure. [5]

- C. The paraphrase conveys the exact meaning of the original. [5]
- D. The paraphrase doesn't use any words from the original text.

5. Accurate Paraphrasing

Q. The following paraphrase is an accurate retelling of the original text and does not constitute plagiarism. Choose A or B.

The original passage:

“Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers*. 2nd ed., 1976, pp. 46-47.

The paraphrase:

In research papers, students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim” (Lester 46-47). [6]

- A. True
- B. False

6. Citing Non-Text Sources

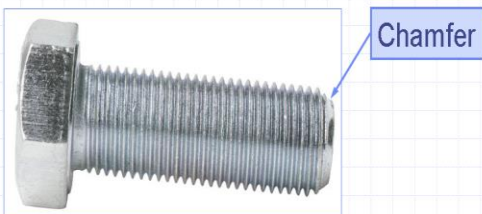
Q. Which graphic is cited correctly for in-text use? Choose A or B. [7]

- A. Image on the left.
- B. Image on the right.

Left

➤ **External Thread:** External threads are on the outside of a member.

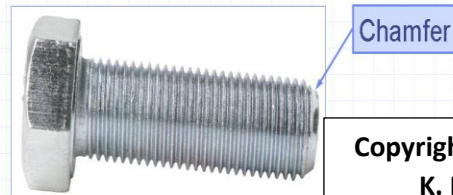
→ A chamfer on the end of the screw thread makes it easier to engage the nut.



Right

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7. Self-Plagiarism

Q. "...self-plagiarism refers to authors who reuse their own previously disseminated content and pass it off as a 'new' product without letting the reader know that this material has appeared previously." [8]
What is the problem with self-plagiarism? Choose all that apply.

- A. Self-plagiarism deceives the reader about the originality of the work.
- B. The author earns money by passing old work off as new.

8. Plagiarism in Software

Q. Instances of plagiarism have been found in work created through AutoCAD and SolidWorks. [9, 10]
Choose True or False.

- A. True
- B. False

9. Internet Sources

Q. The style guide in your profession may not specify whether or not to cite from internet sources. So, in general, may a writer use internet sources in their academic and professional documents? Choose all that apply.

- A. Yes, writers may cite internet sources, but only if they provide enough information for the reader to retrace the writer's steps and find the webpage.
- B. Yes, but writers should include a properly formatted website includes: Author's name. Title of Document (Webpage Name). Title of Website. Sponsor of Website. Date of Document. Date of Access. URL. [11]
- C. No, a writer should never use internet sources for anything other than recreational writing.

10. University of Detroit Mercy Statement on Academic Integrity

Q. The University's statement on Academic Integrity starts with the following sentence. Choose True or False.

"As members of an academic community engaged in the pursuit of truth and with a special concern for values, students must conform to a high standard of honesty and integrity in their academic work." [12]

- A. True
- B. False

11. Plagiarism Detection

Q. Professional associations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), IEEE (formerly Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), and American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) have systems in place to detect plagiarism in conference and journal papers submitted by those working in the field. [13] Choose True or False.

- A. True
- B. False

12. Purpose of a References List

Q. Why do academic and workplace writers include a References or Work Cited at the end of their documents? Choose all that apply.

- A. To give credit to authors whose work was used in the document.
- B. To allow the reader to re-trace the writer's steps in researching.
- C. To show that the writer knows how to write and document a professional publication.
- D. It's a leftover habit from high school and won't be necessary in the workplace.

Engineering Plagiarism Quiz: Answers & Explanations

Correct answers and explanations are in yellow highlights.

1. Defining Plagiarism and Its Problems

Here's how one professional engineering association defined plagiarism and its consequences.

"IEEE defines plagiarism as the reuse of someone else's prior processes, results, or words without explicitly acknowledging the original author and source. It is important for all IEEE authors to recognize that plagiarism in any form, at any level, is unacceptable and is considered a serious breach of professional conduct, with potentially severe ethical and legal consequences." [1]

Q. Plagiarism is considered a serious offense in academic and professional life. Below are two types of statements: Consequences of plagiarizing and reasons people plagiarize. Which of the following statements accurately describes a possible consequence for a writer who has been found to have plagiarized? Choose all that apply.

- A. Plagiarism is stealing since a student/employee uses another's work without giving credit. Thus, the student/employee who is found to be a plagiarist may be considered dishonest.
- B. Plagiarizing can harm a writer's academic or professional reputation if they are perceived as dishonest.
- C. Plagiarizing minimizes the writer's chances for learning about a topic or generating new ideas about it.
- D. Students caught plagiarizing can fail a class at university while employees who plagiarize may be sued in the workplace.
- E. Since sources may be difficult to find for online information, writers may omit references for websites and other electronic sources.
- F. Writers may not know that graphic images, audio and film, and other original works can be copyrighted or patented. Thus, they fail to cite them or provide references and may be charged with plagiarizing.
- G. Studies show university students understand plagiarism and its consequences but report copying information without citing anyway, often because of looming deadlines.
- H. Some writers are willing to risk their reputations and lawsuits because they believe information should be shared freely in a global workplace. Since they believe plagiarism laws are outdated, they choose not to use in-text citations or offer a references list.

Note: C. is also correct although the consequences listed are more personal than professional. E., G. and H. are reasons people plagiarize.

2. When to Cite: General vs. Specialized Knowledge

Q. Can you tell the difference between general knowledge in your field (which does not need to be cited) and specialized knowledge in your field (which does need to be cited)? Which is the example of general knowledge? Choose A or B.

A. Marie Curie was the first scientist to win two Nobel Prizes for Science. [2]

B. "In their Miyagi, Japan laboratories, beginning in 1924, Professor Hidetsugu Yagi and his assistant, Shintaro Uda, designed and constructed a sensitive and highly-directional antenna using closely-coupled parasitic elements. The antenna, which is effective in the higher-frequency ranges, has been important for radar, television, and amateur radio." [3]

Note: There is too much specific information in B. for it to be general knowledge outside a specific discipline.

3. When to Cite: Direct Quotations

Q. When should you use a direct quote instead of paraphrasing original text? Choose all that apply.

A. When the level of technical content and language cannot be reproduced in other words, it is best to do a direct quote. [4]

B. Don't. Scholarly and workplace publishers suggest relying on paraphrasing versus direct quotations since paraphrasing shows that the writer understands the original content.

Note: While most scholarly publications recommend minimal use of quotations, the exception is when a paraphrase would be an inaccurate translation of the original.

4. When to Cite: Paraphrasing

Q. Paraphrasing from another's work shows that the student understands the work well enough to put it into their own words. What are the three requirements of an effective paraphrase? Choose the three answers that apply.

A. The paraphrase uses the writer's own words. [5]

B. The paraphrase uses the writer's own sentence structure. [5]

C. The paraphrase conveys the exact meaning of the original. [5]

D. The paraphrase doesn't use any words from the original text.

Note: Re: D. While desirable, it may be impossible to avoid using all terms from the original. Ex., when explaining the phenomenon called "Internet of Things," the term must be used before it is defined.

5. Accurate Paraphrasing

Q. The following paraphrase is an accurate retelling of the original text and does not constitute plagiarism. Choose A or B.

The original passage:

“Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final [research] paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers*. 2nd ed., 1976, pp. 46-47.

The paraphrase:

In research papers, students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim” (Lester 46-47). [6]

A. True

B. False

Note: The main points of the original are retained, but the order of ideas and sentence structure have been changed to reflect the writer’s understanding of the original.

6. Citing Non-Text Sources

Q. Which graphic is cited correctly for in-text use? Choose A or B. [7]

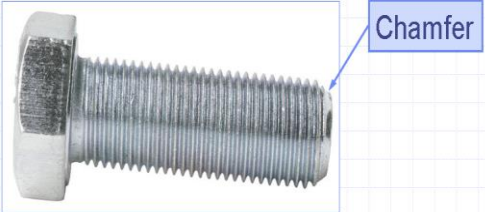
A. Image on the left.

B. Image on the right.

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➤ **External Thread:** External threads are on the outside of a member.


→ A chamfer on the end of the screw thread makes it easier to engage the nut.



Right

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Note: As with text, when borrowing someone else’s images, writers must use a form of in-text citation. The complete details on the source would appear in References at the end of the document.

7. Self-Plagiarism

Q. "...self-plagiarism refers to authors who reuse their own previously disseminated content and pass it off as a 'new' product without letting the reader know that this material has appeared previously." [8]
What is the problem with self-plagiarism? Choose all that apply.

A. Self-plagiarism deceives the reader about the originality of the work.

B. The author earns money by passing old work off as new.

Note: Re: B. While it may be unethical to double dip in terms of earning, the real problem here is that the author has "fooled" the reader, which no credible scholar or professional would do.

8. Plagiarism in Software

Q. Instances of plagiarism have been found in work created through AutoCAD and SolidWorks. [9, 10]
Choose True or False.

A. True

B. False

Note: Yes, references 9 and 10 offer examples of pirated work in both software programs.

9. Internet Sources

Q. The style guide in your profession may not specify whether or not to cite from internet sources. So, in general, may a writer use internet sources in their academic and professional documents? Choose all that apply.

A. Yes, writers may cite internet sources, but only if they provide enough information for the reader to retrace the writer's steps and find the webpage.

B. Yes, but writers should include a properly formatted website includes: Author's name. Title of Document (Webpage Name). Title of Website. Sponsor of Website. Date of Document. Date of Access. Complete URL. [11]

C. No, a writer should never use internet sources for anything other than recreational writing.

Note: While B. is also correct, it has more to do with how to format an entry versus helping the reader retrace research steps or giving credit to someone else. Also, while some disciplines and workplaces contend that C. is also correct, more and more professional-level information is available via – and in some cases only via – an internet source. Rather than exclude these sources, it is better to know how to judge their accuracy and how to cite them properly.

10. University of Detroit Mercy Statement on Academic Integrity

Q. The University's statement on Academic Integrity starts with the following sentence. Choose True or False.

"As members of an academic community engaged in the pursuit of truth and with a special concern for values, students must conform to a high standard of honesty and integrity in their academic work." [12]

A. True

B. False

Note: The Statement may be found in the Detroit Mercy Course Catalog and in various locations on the university's website.

11. Plagiarism Detection

Q. Professional associations such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), IEEE (formerly Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), and American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) have systems in place to detect plagiarism in conference and journal papers submitted by those working in the field. [13] Choose True or False.

A. True

B. False

Note: As the incidence of plagiarism and false information has grown in academic journals, these publishers (and others) have put in place detection programs to identify mis-used or inaccurate information.

12. Purpose of a References List

Q. Why do academic and workplace writers include a References or Work Cited at the end of their documents? Choose all that apply.

A. To give credit to authors whose work was used in the document.

B. To allow the reader to re-trace the writer's steps in researching.

C. To show that the writer knows how to write and document a professional publication.

D. It's a leftover habit from high school and won't be necessary in the workplace.

Note: While C. is also true, this statement is more about the writer's professional reputation than the purpose of a References list. Re: D. While creating a References list is a habit from high school (hopefully), it will definitely have a use in the workplace.

Engineering Plagiarism Quiz: References

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For more practice, visit:

Cornell University

<https://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/>

Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/teacher_and_tutor_resources/preventing_plagiarism/index.html

Source: McCall, M. 2020. "Engineering Plagiarism Quiz." University of Detroit Mercy.