

For other uses, see [Plagiarism \(disambiguation\)](#). (from Wikipedia)

Plagiarism is the practice of claiming or implying original authorship of (or incorporating material from) someone else's written or creative work, in whole or in part, into one's own without adequate acknowledgement. Unlike cases of [forgery](#), in which the *authenticity* of the writing, document, or some other kind of object itself is in question, plagiarism is concerned with the issue of false *attribution*.

Within [academia](#), plagiarism by students, professors, or researchers is considered [academic dishonesty](#) or [academic fraud](#) and offenders are subject to academic censure. In [journalism](#), plagiarism is considered a breach of [journalistic ethics](#), and reporters caught plagiarizing typically face disciplinary measures ranging from suspension to termination. Some individuals caught plagiarizing in academic or journalistic contexts claim that they plagiarized unintentionally, by failing to include [quotations](#) or give the appropriate [citation](#). While plagiarism in scholarship and journalism has a centuries-old history, the development of the [Internet](#), where articles appear as electronic text, has made the physical act of copying the work of others much easier, simply by [copying and pasting](#) text from one web page to another.

Plagiarism is different from [copyright infringement](#). While both terms may apply to a particular act, they emphasize different aspects of the transgression. Copyright infringement is a violation of the rights of the copyright holder, when material is used without the copyright holder's consent. On the other hand, plagiarism is concerned with the unearned increment to the plagiarizing author's [reputation](#) that is achieved through false claims of authorship.

Academia

In the academic world, plagiarism by students is a very serious offense that can result in punishments such as a failing grade on the particular assignment (typically at the high school level) or for the course (typically at the college or university level). For cases of repeated plagiarism, or for cases in which a student commits severe plagiarism (e.g., [submitting a copied article as his or her own work](#)), a student may be suspended or expelled. Many students feel pressured to complete papers well and quickly, and with the accessibility of new technology (The Internet) students can plagiarize by copying and pasting information from other sources. This is often easily detected by teachers, for several reasons. First, students' choice of sources are frequently unoriginal; instructors may receive the same passage copied from a popular source (such as [Wikipedia](#)) from several students. Second, it is often easy to tell whether a student used his or her own "voice." Third, students may choose sources which are inappropriate, off-topic, or contain incorrect information. Fourth, lecturers may insist that submitted work is first submitted to an online plagiarism detector.^[1]