

# Using the work of others - transcript

**Slide 1:** Welcome to this presentation on using the work of others. This presentation will outline the correct and incorrect usage of other people's work and will help you to avoid plagiarism. You can pause, rewind, fast forward and re-watch this presentation at any point. In order to be active in your learning, it is recommended that you take notes from this presentation.

**Slide 2:** To make progress in Science, it is important that we build upon the ideas of others. In order to submit a successful assignment, you need to demonstrate that you have read and analysed the work of others. To do this effectively you need to identify and correctly reference to acknowledge the work of others. In order to avoid dishonesty you need to give full credit to the contribution of others and never misrepresent your results.

So what do we mean by plagiarism? Plagiarism can come in many forms and is not always intentional. Plagiarism is often described as intellectual theft. Examples of plagiarism are; direct 'lifting' where you copy a person's work, word for word, using ideas from the work of others without acknowledging them, colluding with another student to copy their work, passing someone's essay off as your own, also known as ghosting, sometimes by paying for it online.

**Slide 3:** The vast majority of plagiarism is unintentional but can end up with serious consequences. Unintentional plagiarism can occur where there is confusion, not knowing how to reference properly, nor keeping an accurate record of your research and forgetting where information came from, not knowing if something was your own idea or not and sometimes just copying what a person has said without realising it is unacceptable.

The problem occurs from previous experiences, for example at school we are often encouraged to copy and paste information from websites for use in projects or it may be that it is cultural and copying the work of others is regarded as a complement. However in higher education, plagiarism is a form of cheating and has serious consequences.

**Slide 4:** Plagiarism can also arise from what is known as poor scholarship, even if you have referenced correctly. This is where you use too much information from a limited number of sources, not using your own words and desperately using the synonyms function to try to make it look like they are your own words. These things are always detectable and you should avoid them.

**Slide 5:** So what is the worst that could happen? It's only one piece of work after all, it may not even get noticed. Penalties range from receiving zero for your piece of work to a misconduct hearing, both of which are completely avoidable if you understand why and how to use referencing and the work of others to support your own work. The University uses Turnitin software which is able to check your work against many online sources and other assignments that have been submitted. It then provides a score which shows what percentage of your work came from other sources.

**Slide 6:** So how do you avoid unintentional plagiarism? You can do this by reading the APA 6<sup>th</sup> guide which has been adapted for science, in order to familiarise yourself with the correct use of referencing. Please note that some lecturers may have different requirements so you should always check with them on the referencing style they wish you to use. This will provide you with the information you need to know about how you should use references. Keeping a good record of all the resources you use and where you found them from will avoid confusion and paying close attention to feedback will help to iron out any previous mistakes.

**Slide 7:** So to conclude, keep records, know when and how to reference and refer to the guide. You may want to have a go at our plagiarism game and read section 4 of The Student Handbook to find out more. If this is something you are worried about or you have had feedback about plagiarism before, you can book an appointment with your Academic Skills Tutors to discuss this further.