

# Academic Integrity Workshop

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# USD Honor Code

The University of San Diego School of Law is committed to providing a legal education in an environment free from injustices and academic dishonesty.

- This Honor Code establishes the rules that govern the students of the University of San Diego School of Law for all conduct relating to academic matters.
- By virtue of enrollment at the University of San Diego School of Law, all students are on notice of this Honor Code and its provisions.
- Each student is responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with this Honor Code and for reporting any violations of the Honor Code.

USD School of Law Honor Code:

<https://www.sandiego.edu/law/current/student-handbook/honor-code.php>

# I. Academic Dishonesty

- The instructor or supervisor must determine whether (A) no act of academic dishonesty has occurred, (B) an infraction has occurred, or (C) a serious violation probably has occurred.
- Minor infractions may result in a reduction in grade, withdrawal from the course, retaking of the course, additional work for the course.
- Serious violations are handled by the Honor Code Hearing Committee and can result in expulsion, suspension, a letter of censure, the need for additional courses or credits, or other sanctions.

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# II. Academic Dishonesty: Sanctions and Procedures

Academic dishonesty is a violation of this Honor Code.

1. Violations may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Examination Behavior.
  - b. Fabrication.
  - c. Unauthorized Collaboration.
  - d. **Plagiarism**
  - e. Misappropriation of Resource Materials.
  - f. Unauthorized Access.
  - g. Violations Defined by Instructor or Supervisor.
  - h. Violations Defined by Student Boards in Academic Matters.
  
2. A violation may be either an infraction or a serious violation.

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# Plagiarism and how to avoid it

# Understanding Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's work as your own.
  - summarizing, paraphrasing, copying, or translating
  - words, ideas, or any other creative work,
  - without proper attribution.
- Plagiarism can be deliberate or accidental; partial or complete.
- [Plagiarism Tutorial by Ramona Islam](#), Fairfield University

# Ensuring Proper Attribution

- The first step in avoiding plagiarism and giving proper documentation is to cultivate good note-taking habits.
- As you take notes, include the bibliographic information you'll need later for a citation. You may want to take advantage of note-taking software like Evernote and Zotero.
- If you cut & paste text from another source to look at later, immediately mark it as copied text.
- Likewise, if you paraphrase material, make sure it is marked clearly with your changes.

# Ensuring Proper Attribution (cont.)

- Double-check your work against each source to make sure you have not accidentally plagiarized something.
- Save copies of source material (journal articles, books, online sources) until you have finished writing your paper or until you've received a final grade on the paper.

# Paraphrasing

- Paraphrasing is restating the meaning of a segment of text either by expanding and clarifying, or by summarizing the main points.
  - However, it's not enough to simply change a few words around, or replace words with synonyms.
  - Instead, you must rewrite the material using your own words.
- Always indicate whose ideas you are paraphrasing by providing a footnote reference (including a page reference)
- Finally, check your paraphrase against the source for accuracy, and modify phrases that match the original too closely.

# Bad Paraphrasing

## Original Source:

“America today has veered too far in the direction of formal testing without adequate consideration of the costs and limitations of an exclusive emphasis on that approach.”

HOWARD GARDNER,  
MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:  
THE THEORY IN PRACTICE  
179 (1993)

**Paraphrase Version 1:**  
America has now gone too far toward formal testing, without realizing the costs and limitations of exclusively emphasizing that approach.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>HOWARD GARDNER,  
MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES:  
THE THEORY IN PRACTICE  
179 (1993).

# Better Paraphrasing

## Original Source:

“America today has veered too far in the direction of formal testing without adequate consideration of the costs and limitations of an exclusive emphasis on that approach.”

HOWARD GARDNER,  
MULTIPLE  
INTELLIGENCES: THE  
THEORY IN PRACTICE  
179 (1993).

**Paraphrase Version 1:** In the United States, the education system places too much emphasis on formal testing, overlooking the limitations and expenses imposed when that assessment strategy is employed exclusively.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>HOWARD GARDNER, MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES: THE THEORY IN PRACTICE 179 (1993).

# More Practice and Questions

- Indiana University, How to Recognize Plagiarism  
<https://plagiarism.iu.edu/>
- Harvard Law School, Plagiarism Quiz  
[https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_71fT8VnVotpnUep](https://harvard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71fT8VnVotpnUep)
- CALI Lesson – Plagiarism – Keeping out of Trouble  
<https://www.cali.org/lesson/1119>

# Turnitin Similarity Check

- Turnitin Draft Coach is an extension in Google Docs where students can submit drafts of papers to check for possible instances of plagiarism before they submit final drafts to their course instructors.
- Turnitin Draft Coach is FREE to USD students.
- Papers submitted through Draft Coach will not be saved in Turnitin's database and will not be distributed to instructors.
- For more instructions, see the Turnitin section of our [Paper Writing for Seminars and Student Comments](#) research guide.

# How to use Draft Coach

1. Open your document in Google Docs. Please note that even if you have your original work saved as a Word document, you can upload it to Google Drive, and save as a Google Doc
2. Select Extensions, Turnitin Draft Coach, and then Turnitin Draft Coach again from the top menu bar.
3. The Draft Coach panel will appear on the right-hand side.
4. Once selected, you are able to choose from a Similarity Check, Citation Check, Grammar Guide, or full report.

# Using your Similarity Check

- Turnitin compares submitted drafts to its database of scholarly research (journal articles, student papers, and other internet sources) and returns a Similarity Check that highlights a percentage of matching text.
- Turnitin does not automatically detect plagiarism. It is up to the student to interpret the meaning of the Similarity Check.
- For help understanding your Similarity Check, please [click here](#).

# Generative AI

# Law School Rule on AI Usage

<https://www.sandiego.edu/law/documents/academics/academic-rules-2024-2025.pdf>

Introduction: This rule balances the fact that writing is an indispensable skill for lawyers with the fact that the use of AI tools is likely to become an integral part of practice.

1. For the purposes of this rule, artificial intelligence tools (“AI tools”) refer to large-language model (LLM) AI tools and do not include plagiarism checkers, grammar-check, spell-check, indexing, Bluebooking, or other citation or formatting tools such as those commonly used to generate tables of contents or bibliographies.
2. AI-Generated Content (“AGC”) refers to substantive content generated by an AI tool or revisions generated by an AI tool that materially alter a student’s own writing. AI may be used for research purposes, such as to generate suggestions of sources or topics; however, any material copied from or substantially derived from a query to an AI tool shall constitute AGC. Students remain responsible for the accuracy of any information generated by a query to an AI tool.

3. No AGC may be included in written work submitted for credit in either the JD or any of the Masters of Laws programs, unless the instructor explicitly permits such use in writing. If there is a course syllabus, the permission must be granted in the syllabus. If there is no syllabus, such as in the supervision of journal comments, the permission must be granted in a written communication.

4. In any submission of written work for credit, students must disclose the use of AI tools or any AGC included in their submissions, as specified in the course syllabus, or if there is no syllabus, such as in the supervision of journal comments, in a written communication. The failure to disclose the use of AI tools or AGC, as well as any other representation of AGC as student-drafted content, will be treated as plagiarism, as defined in Section I.1.d of the Law School's Honor Code.

5. Nothing in this policy alters any other rule pertaining to plagiarism, as defined in Section I.1.d of the Law School's Honor Code.

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# Available Gen AI tools

- ITS recommends Google's AI products as USD's preferred set of AI tools.
  - Gemini
  - NotebookLM
- You may still use other non Google AI products
- Visit the [AI Training @ USD](#) to access general and USD-specific AI training materials.

# LRC Reference Desk

Email: [lrcrefer@sandiego.edu](mailto:lrcrefer@sandiego.edu)

Phone: (619) 260-4612

Chat: [sandiego.edu/law/library](https://www.sandiego.edu/law/library)

These slides are available at

<https://www.sandiego.edu/law/library/research-trainings/upper-division.php>