

LLMC Orientation: Academic Integrity Workshop

Melissa Abernathy
mabernathy@sandiego.edu



USD School of Law 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:

<http://www.sandiego.edu/law/student-affairs/student-handbook/honor-code.php>

I. Academic Dishonesty

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.

-USD School of Law Honor Code:

<http://www.sandiego.edu/law/student-affairs/student-handbook/honor-code.php>

II. Academic Dishonesty: Sanctions and Procedures

- 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.

-USD School of Law Honor Code:

<http://www.sandiego.edu/law/student-affairs/student-handbook/honor-code.php>

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

- **In re Zbiegien**, 433 N.W.2d 871 (Minn. 1988) (investigating an incident of plagiarism while an applicant was in law school delayed the applicant's bar application for one year while the committee conducted its investigation)
- **In re Harper**, 645 N.Y.S.2d 846 (N.Y. App. Div. 1996) (disciplining attorney for failing to disclose on his NY bar application that he was dismissed from a L.L.M. degree program because he was found to have plagiarized a paper)
- **In re Lamberis**, 443 N.E.2d 549 (Ill. 1982) (censuring attorney for plagiarizing a thesis paper in a L.L.M. program and stating "sanctions are appropriate and required because both the extent of the appropriated material and the purpose for which it was used evidence the respondent's complete disregard for values that are most fundamental in the legal profession")

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](#)

Examples of Plagiarism

- Buying, stealing, or ghostwriting a paper
- Copying and pasting or using other people's ideas without attribution.
- Paraphrasing an author too lightly

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.¹

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



Comments

- Although the source is cited, the paraphrasing retains too much of the original wording and sentence structure.

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.¹

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

Comments

- This paraphrase is different enough from the original source that it would not be considered plagiarism, as long as Gardner is credited.

More Practice and Quizzes

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

Turnitin at the LRC

- Turnitin at the LRC is an area in Blackboard where students can submit drafts of papers to check for possible instances of plagiarism before they submit final drafts to their course instructors.
- Turnitin is FREE to USD students.
- Papers submitted through Turnitin at the LRC will not be saved in Turnitin's database and will not be distributed to instructors.
- For more instructions, see our [Turnitin LibGuide](#).

Similarity Report

The screenshot displays the Turnitin interface for a 'Film Essay' by Tom Sawyer. The top navigation bar includes 'Film Studies', 'Turnitin Assignment - DUE 17-Jul-2012', and 'What's New'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Originality', 'GradeMark', and 'PeerMark'. The main content area shows the essay text with highlighted matching segments. On the right, the 'Match Overview' panel lists five sources with their respective similarity percentages. Callouts provide detailed instructions for interacting with the report.

Overall Similarity Index: 19% (SIMILAR OUT OF 100)

View all sources

Match overview

Click on a source in the right hand pane to view the matching text in your document

Rank	Source	Percentage
1	www.slideshare.net Internet source	4%
2	www.antiessays.com Internet source	3%
3	Submitted to Edge Hill... Student paper	3%
4	socrates.berkeley.edu Internet source	3%
5	www.dreamcast2k.com Internet source	2%

Paper information

Download/print a PDF version of the Originality Report or the Digital Receipt

Click within the text to view the source

Filter the report to include or exclude the bibliography, quotations and/or small matches

Turnitin compares submitted drafts to its database of scholarly research (journal articles, student papers, and other internet sources) and returns a Similarity Report that highlights a percentage of matching text.

How to use Turnitin at the LRC

1. Email mabernathy@sandiego.edu to be added to the Legal Research Center Organization
2. When you are ready to submit your paper, login to Blackboard at <https://ole.sandiego.edu/ultra/organization> and click on the Legal Research Center under the Organizations tab.
 1. Click on Organization Content
 1. Click on Student Turnitin and upload your document.
 1. Wait for a Similarity Report. Similarity Reports should usually be ready within 1 hour, and most are returned within a few minutes.

Questions? Need help?

Contact a librarian!

- Melissa Abernathy
Foreign & International Law Librarian
mabernathy@sandiego.edu
(619) 260-4734
- Reference Desk
lrcrefer@sandiego.edu
(619)260-4612