

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY and PLAGIARISM AT USC

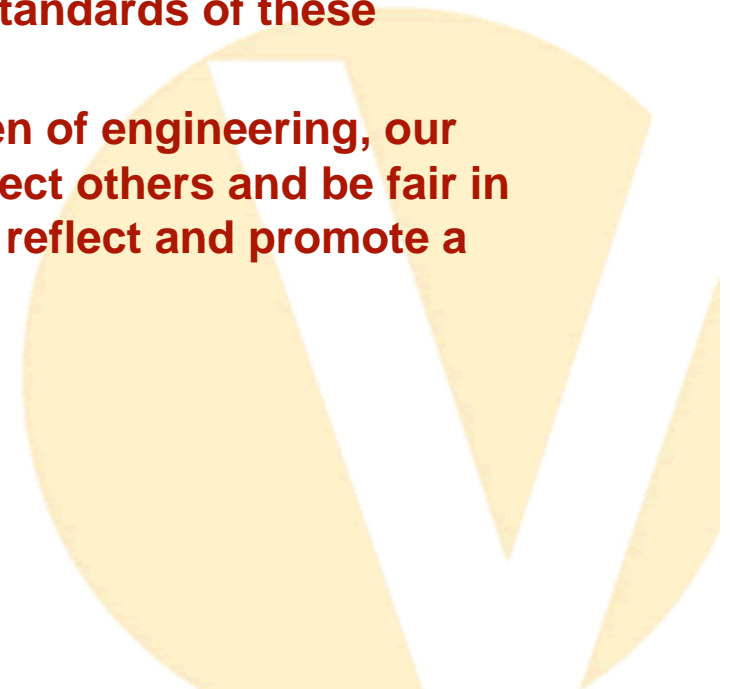
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“A Community of Honor”

We are the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, a community of academic and professional integrity. As students, faculty, and staff our fundamental purpose is the pursuit of knowledge and truth. We recognize that ethics and honesty are essential to this mission and pledge to uphold the highest standards of these principles.

As responsible men and women of engineering, our lifelong commitment is to respect others and be fair in all endeavors. Our actions will reflect and promote a community of honor.



Your Responsibilities

- **Know the Rules of USC's Academic Culture**
 - **SCampus Section 11.00: Behavior Violating University Standards and Appropriate Sanctions**
 - <http://web-app.usc.edu/scampus/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>
- **Establish Open Communication with Faculty**
 - **Classroom Policies**
 - **Research Ethics**
- **Know the Available Resources**



Expectations of Viterbi Students

“The university expects that, by virtue of advanced academic standing and of substantial previous experience in an academic environment, graduate students enter USC with an awareness of the general standards for appropriate academic behavior and of what constitutes academic honesty.

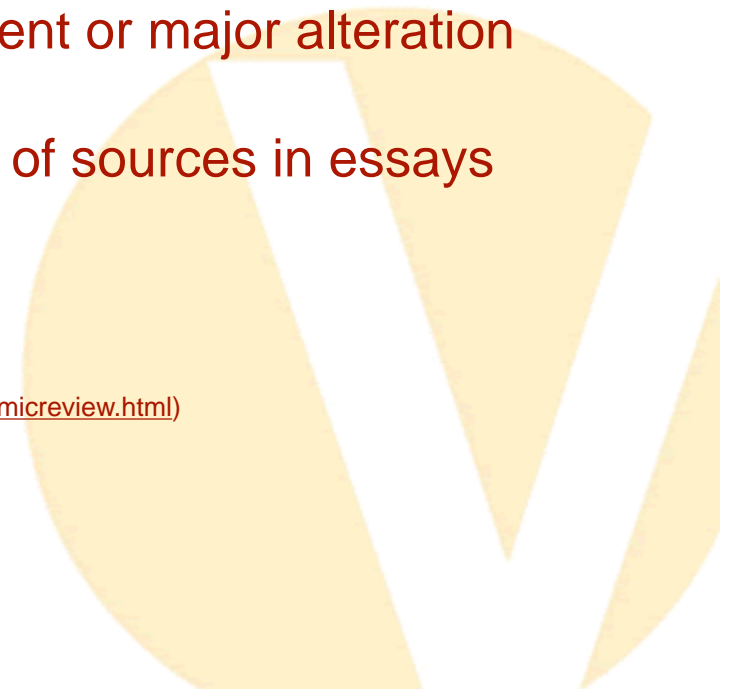
“The university also views academic dishonesty within the graduate student community with the utmost seriousness, and when discovered, meets such dishonesty with serious consequences. Graduate students are urged to familiarize themselves with the specific standards articulated by the university in the current Scampus.”

<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/docs/GradIntegrity.pdf>

What is Plagiarism at USC?

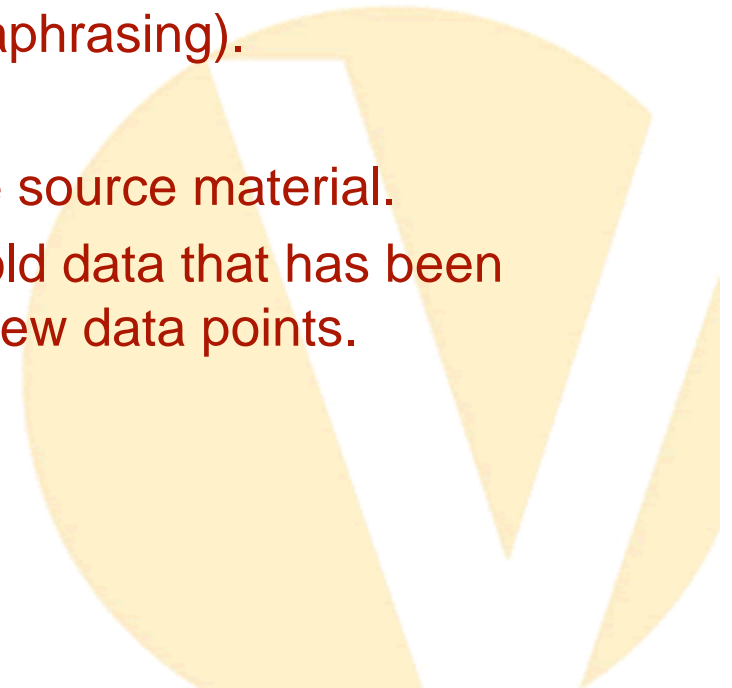
- A. The submission of material authored by another person but represented as the student's own work, whether that material is paraphrased or copied in verbatim or near-verbatim form.
- B. The submission of material subjected to editorial revision by another person that results in substantive changes in content or major alteration of writing style.
- C. Improper acknowledgement of sources in essays or papers.

(Source: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/nonacademicreview.html>)

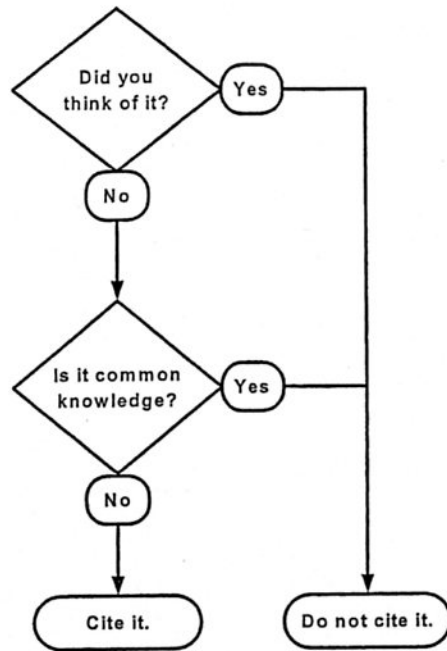


Plagiarism is Also...

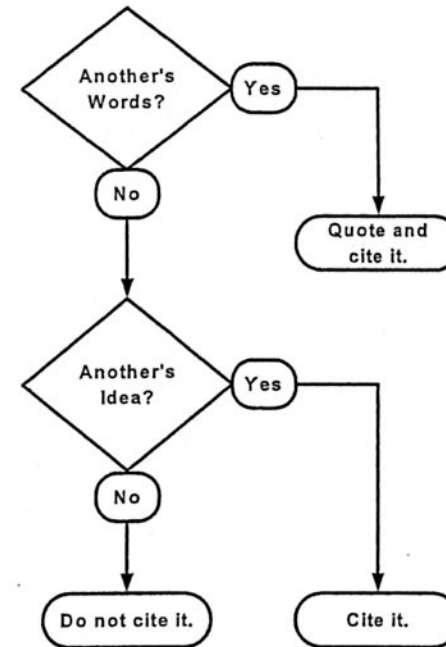
- Taking someone else's ideas, words, data, or images and presenting them as your own.
- Direct copying from original sources.
- Direct copying from original sources, but with footnotes.
- Rewording a sentence (paraphrasing).
- Borrowing organization.
- Failing to reference/footnote source material.
- Submitting as a new study old data that has been changed simply by adding new data points.



When Should You Cite?



Citation Decision Chart 1: When should you cite?

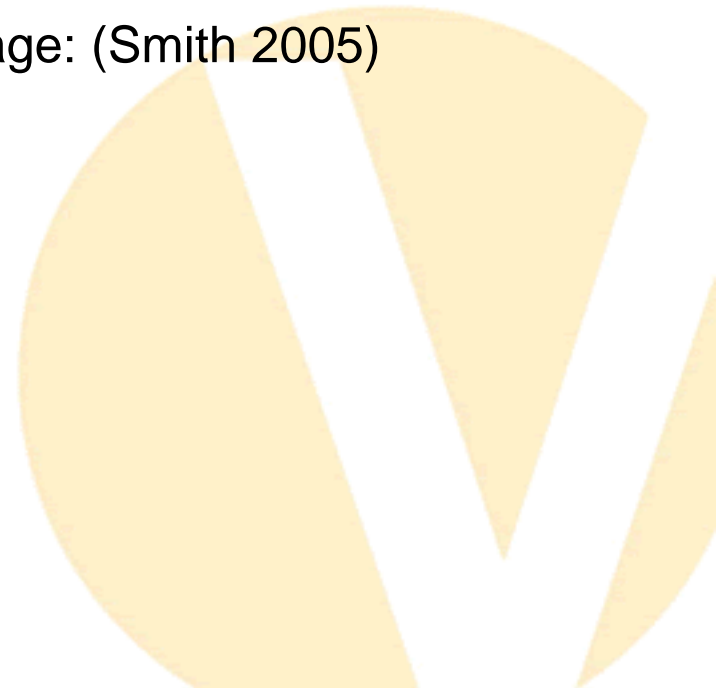


Citation Decision Chart 2: What needs to be cited?

Source: Harris, Robert A. 2001. *The Plagiarism Handbook*. Los Angeles, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.

How Should You Cite?

- Choose Appropriate Format
 - MLA, APA, IEEE, Chicago, etc.
- Common Elements
 - In-text Citations
 - Author and Date or Page: (Smith 2005)
 - Number: [5]
 - Works Cited List



Other Examples of Unethical Conduct at USC

- Acquisition of term papers or other assignments from any source and the subsequent presentation of those materials as the student's own work, or providing term papers or assignments that another student submits as his/her own work.
- Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study.
- Any use of external assistance during an examination shall be considered academically dishonest unless expressly permitted by the instructor.
- Unauthorized collaboration on a project, homework or other assignment.

(Source: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/nonacademicreview.html>)

Other Examples of Unethical Conduct at USC (Cont.)

- Using an essay, term paper or project in more than one course without permission.
- Taking a course, portion of a course or exam for another student or allowing another individual to take a course, a portion of a course or exam for someone else.
- Using university computer and word processing systems to gain access, alter and/or use unauthorized information.
- Fabricating: Submitting material for lab assignments, class projects or other assignments which is wholly or partially falsified, invented or otherwise does not represent your work.

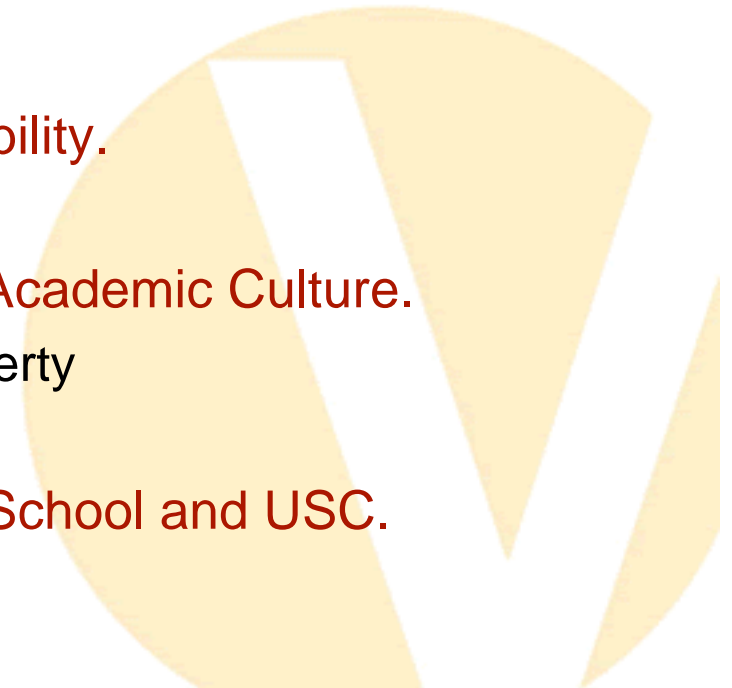
(Source: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/nonacademicreview.html>)

Other Examples of Unethical Conduct at USC (Cont.)

- Dividing into separate papers a study that is more accurate as a single entity.
- Double Dipping: Submitting a paper for publication that has already been disseminated in a significant way (published in a journal, presented at a conference, posted on the internet) without indicating so to the intended publisher.
- Any act which gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage may be considered an act of academic dishonesty.

Why Avoid Plagiarism?

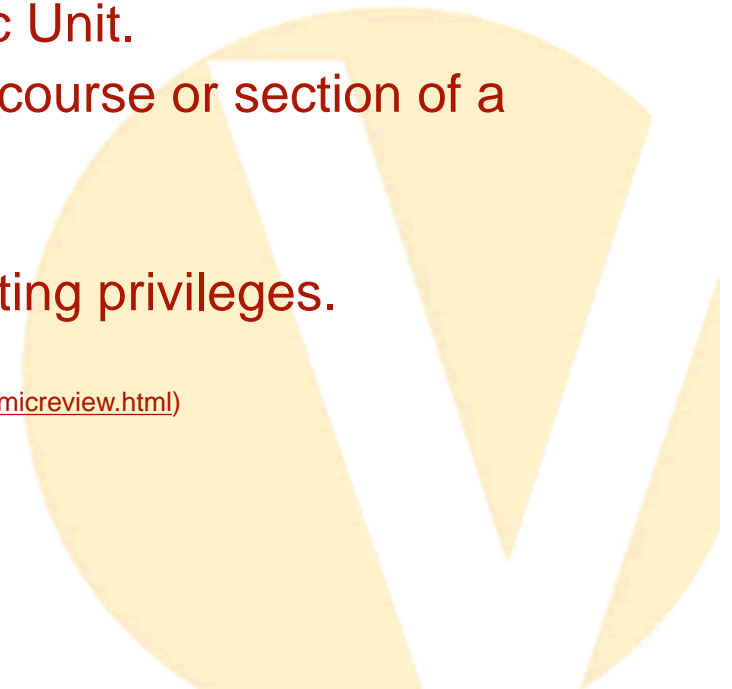
- It is Intellectual Dishonesty.
- It is Unfair to the Original Author.
- It Misleads the Reader.
- It Misrepresents Your Credibility.
- You Need to Respect U.S. Academic Culture.
 - Words are Personal Property
- You Represent The Viterbi School and USC.



Sanctions for Academic Integrity Violations at USC

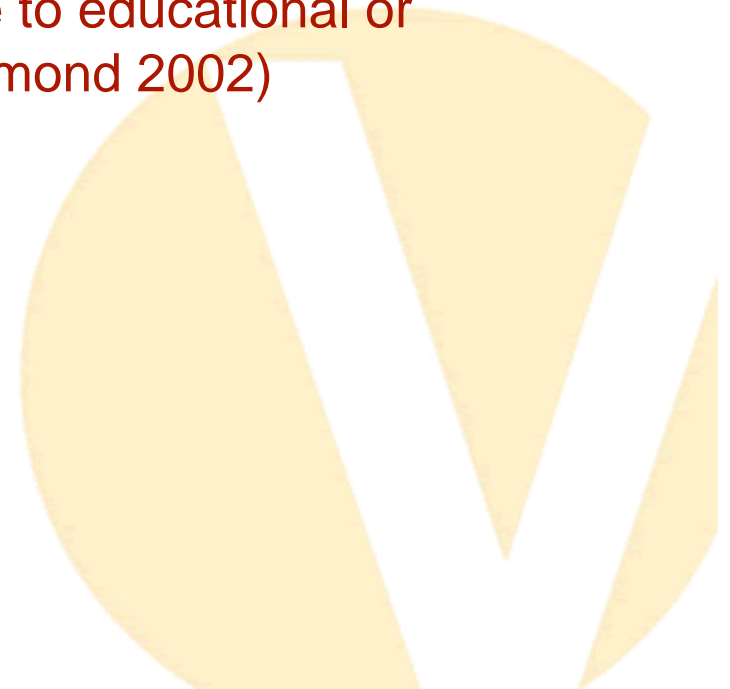
- Expulsion from the University.
- Suspension from the University.
- Interim Suspension/Action.
- Revocation of Admission.
- Revocation of Degree.
- Dismissal from an Academic Unit.
- Removal from an individual course or section of a course.
- Grade Sanctions.
- Restriction or loss of computing privileges.

(Source: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/nonacademicreview.html>)



Why Violations Occur (A Partial List)

- Students' beliefs and values, personality, stress, social groups and peer pressure, and situational factors. (Park 2003)
- Those who mean to plagiarize, those with inadequate referencing skills, or those who don't know what plagiarism is due to educational or cultural backgrounds. (Hammond 2002)
- Pressure to succeed.
- Deadlines.



- Excerpt from IEEE Author's Kit
- How to Recognize Plagiarism: Paraphrasing



1. You submit a draft of a paper for review by your advisor. Since it's only a draft, you include sections from readings without attributing the sources.

IS THIS PLAGIARISM?



2. You are working in a group of five students and have been assigned a collaboratively written paper. Two group members submit sections that include paragraphs cut and pasted from the Internet with no attribution.

WHO IS GUILTY OF PLAGIARISM?



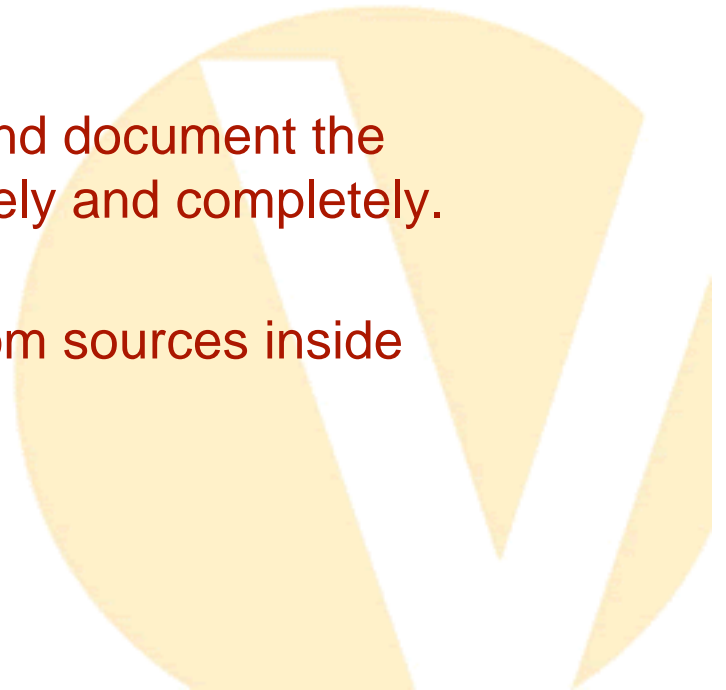
3. While conducting a review of the literature you find an abstract containing relevant information and cite its article as a source without reading the actual article.

IS THIS A VALID CITATION?



To Avoid Plagiarism...

- Manage your time.
- Discuss ideas with your advisor.
- Know all applicable policies.
- When researching, record and document the relevant information accurately and completely.
- Place all words borrowed from sources inside quotation marks.

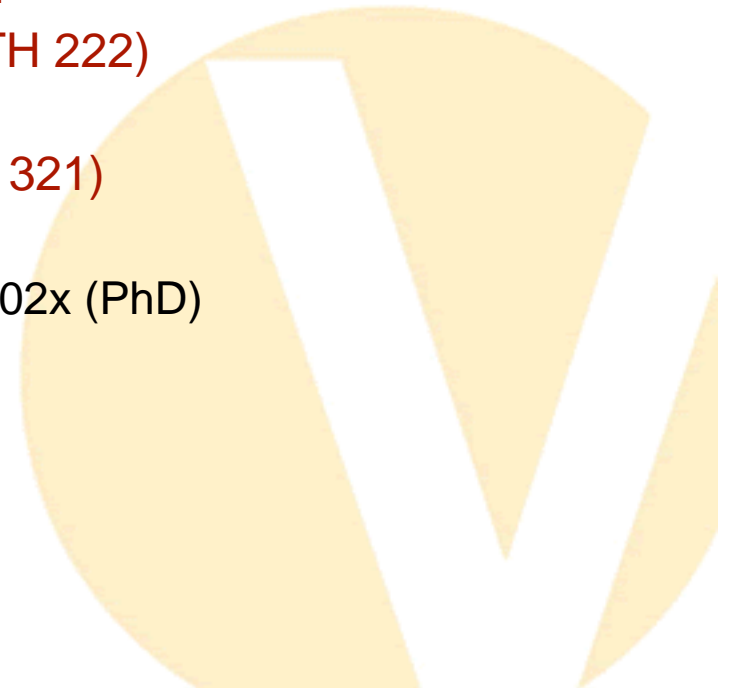


To Avoid Plagiarism...

- Document any facts that are disputed or not common knowledge.
- Document all opinions, conclusions, statistics, pictures, charts or graphs taken from your sources.
- If you're not sure, be sure to cite.



- EE Advisors
- EE Faculty
- MAPP
- SCampus
- Relevant Style Guides (MLA, IEEE, Chicago, etc.)
- Existing Literature in Your Field
- Engineering Writing Center (RTH 222)
 - <http://viterbi.usc.edu/VARC>
- University Writing Center (THH 321)
- Engineering Writing Courses
 - ENGR 501x (MS) & ENGR 502x (PhD)



Feel free to contact the following with any questions:

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