CHAPTER 7: ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

UGA Academic Honesty Policy

The University of Georgia is committed to "A Culture of Honesty." The First-year Writing Program supports this commitment and strictly follows the university's policies and procedures for dealing with possible instances of academic dishonesty. Information about "A Culture of Honesty" and the "UGA Academic Honesty Policy" and procedures can be found at the website of the Office of the Vice President for Instruction: https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/.

All FYW students should become very familiar with this site!

Plagiarism

A particular form of academic dishonesty that First-year Writing students need to understand and guard against is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use of another's words or interpretations without giving credit. Plagiarism occurs when writers fail to use quotation marks to indicate exact words from a source, when they fail to paraphrase a passage completely, when they provide faulty sources, or when they fail to cite the source of any quotation or paraphrase.

In recent years, cutting and pasting information from the World Wide Web has led students to commit plagiarism. This occurs particularly when they have forgotten where the information was copied from or lose the ability to tell the difference between their own words and those copied from an electronic source. Students should also take additional care to ensure that the Wild Card exhibit for the final electronic portfolio is their own work and correctly identifies any work by other authors included in that piece.

To avoid plagiarism, writers should always:

1. Put quotation marks around any words taken from sources. When writers use an open book for writing a paper or taking notes, or when writers take notes by cutting and pasting from an online source or website, they must be careful not to plagiarize unintentionally.

2. Paraphrase material completely; changing or rearranging a few words or the tense of a verb is not paraphrasing. Writers should read the passage to be used, close the source book or minimize the web browser, and then write in their own words what they have read. They should then compare the paraphrase to the source; if by chance key words from the original are included, these should be changed or enclosed in quotation marks.

Note: Using quotation marks and paraphrasing is not enough – you must cite all sources on your Works Cited page.

3. Give accurate and complete citations for all material. Refer to the UGA Library's MLA Citation Guide for citation help: https://www.libs.uga.edu/sites/default/files/reference/MLA9th.pdf

Writers should refer to this source when creating compositions and/or should consult with their instructors as to what form is required in a particular course.

4. Avoid borrowing entire arguments or approaches to a subject from another writer. In general, college papers should argue an original idea and should not be paraphrases of another writer's work. All papers that students submit must be original work. The advantages to writers of a well-documented paper are obvious: documentation shows that writers know their subjects, and citations give ideas validity.

5. Students using graphs, images, or data must cite where the information is found.

Generative AI and First-Year Writing

Because instructor approaches, writing philosophies, and comfort levels vary widely across our program, First-Year Writing has not designated a single, standardized AI policy. Regardless of the class or instructor, however, you are expected to be the sole author of any submission for your FYW class, whether low or high stakes.

Large Language Models are fascinating, complex technologies that offer both threats and promises, and while they offer some forms of labor-saving and optimization, they also sharply decrease users mental involvement in the writing process when used to write in place of the author. (Source: https://www.media.mit.edu/publications/your-brain-on-chatgpt/)

As such, your instructor might allow some forms of assistive AI use, or they might prohibit it entirely. **Ensure that you know your specific class's policies on AI before you use it, and be aware that even authorized uses of AI will require some form of credit or citation.**

If you have questions about your instructor's policies, be sure to contact them early in the semester.