

# Definition and Types of Plagiarism

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Plagiarism is a form of cheating or fraud; it occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own.

## Heywood Ehrlich of Rutgers University defines the following 3 types of plagiarism:

**Fraud:** outright purchase or copying of an entire paper, perhaps with a new introduction or conclusion added. In some cases, such copying may entail copyright infringement.

**Substantial plagiarism:** widespread or considerable borrowing of material, passing off borrowed passages as original, failure to indicate quoted evidence or give bibliographical sources or other appropriate credit.

**Incidental plagiarism:** small-scale borrowing, copying, downloading, or insertion without appropriate quotation, credit, or acknowledgment.  
<http://www.andromeda.rutgers.edu/~ehrich/plagiarism598.html>

## From College of Humanities:

**Too much help:** misusing the assistance of a tutor or other more skilled reader. Employing or allowing someone else to alter substantially or write an assignment.

**Inadvertent plagiarism:** plagiarizing out of ignorance. The student may not realize what he or she is doing is wrong, or may not know how to cite sources correctly.