**How To Avoid Plagiarism**

Third-party sources may give your work more credibility, whether you're presenting significant results from a study or conducting an interview with a subject-matter expert. But there's a distinction between using other people's ideas or thoughts without attribution and passing them off as your own.

Here are some reasons why preventing plagiarism in your work is crucial, as well as some tips on how to do so.

**What is plagiarism?**

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the verb "to plagiarize" as follows:

"to utilize (another's creation) without giving due credit to the author: to steal and pass off (the thoughts or words of another) as one's own"

This definition uses the term "steal" to refer to purposeful situations in which someone uses another's thoughts or words without giving due credit. This term applies to any inadvertent or thoughtless use of another person's thoughts or words without providing appropriate credit because you are attempting to "pass off" their work as your own.

The basic act of copying and pasting might appear innocent in our technologically advanced world, yet it has major repercussions in academic and professional contexts.

What makes plagiarism so bad?

Plagiarism is fundamentally an ethical problem. Plagiarism is the act of a writer submitting copied work with the intent to profit from that theft. This is true whether you're submitting a paper for class in hopes of receiving a "A" or you're a professional writer hoping to be paid.

As a writer, avoiding plagiarism is crucial since it jeopardizes your integrity. It could prevent you from getting vital professional recommendations and moving up the job ladder, in addition to costing you the respect of your mentors and colleagues. Plagiarism might result in lost leadership opportunities or financial help if you're still in school.

Additionally, it denies the original author of the work credit or financial gain, which might lead to greater problems if the source takes legal action.

**Five techniques to write without plagiarizing**

Thankfully, it's not all frightening. The good news is that avoiding plagiarism is simple to accomplish now that you know what it is. Here are some tips on how to write without plagiarizing to assist you avoid breaking this taboo.

1 Reference your work

When referencing a thought or phrase that is not your own, include a citation in your work that specifies the complete name of the author, the publication date, and any other citation information mandated by the style manual you are using.

2 Use quotation marks

One of the simplest yet most obvious strategies to prevent plagiarism when utilizing someone else's words verbatim in your work is to use quote marks to indicate that the words aren't your own. In order for readers to know who the quote is from, a direct quotation should also provide the source.

3 Paragraphs

The act of putting a source's thoughts or facts into your own words without altering its meaning is known as paraphrasing. However, if done improperly, paraphrase might turn into plagiarism.

It takes a little dance to successfully paraphrase without using someone else's words. Avoid using too many words or phrases that are too similar to those in the source and reword and structure your work in a unique manner. The trick is to do so without changing the idea's original meaning. A source citation is required since you are still utilising someone else's ideas.

4 Outline a unique concept.

Consider what you have to say about it rather than simply repeating what the source has to say. Consider what original viewpoint or argument you may make in your writing that is wholly your own. Remember that you must follow the aforementioned rules to prevent plagiarism even if you are only implying the concepts or language of a source to support your own argument.

It might be tempting to reuse some of your earlier words while writing on the same subject for several different tasks; this is known as "self-plagiarism." If the publication or your teacher didn't grant you permission to reprint your previous work, the risk of self-plagiarism is just as great.

5 Check for plagiarism

Some words or phrases that you come across while researching a subject may remain with you so strongly that you unintentionally use them in your writing without citing them. If in doubt, use a plagiarism detection program online to find these problems before submitting your paper.

Additionally, Grammarly provides a free plagiarism detector that checks your writing for copied material. Some of these programs emphasize the precise phrases or sentences of concern and reveal the source of the content, letting you know whether or not sections of your writing are pirated. These recommendations can be beneficial in helping you prevent plagiarism in your work and are worth the effort. Learning to prevent plagiarism ultimately requires daily practice in addition to increasing awareness of what plagiarism is.