

Plagiarism: where do you draw the line?

In the examples below, No. 1 is plagiarism and No. 6 is not. Where do you draw the line?

1.) Copying a paragraph verbatim from a source without any acknowledgement.



2.) Copying a paragraph and making small changes – e.g. replacing an adjective with a synonym and including the source in a list of references.



3.) Cutting and pasting a paragraph by using sentences of the original or two and putting one or two in a different order, no quotation marks and no acknowledgement e.g. 'Jones, 1999' plus inclusion in the reference list.



4.) Composing a paragraph by taking short phrases of 10 or 15 words from several sources and putting them together, adding words of our own to make it sound like a new paragraph, and including all sources in the reference list.



5.) Paraphrasing a paragraph with substantial changes in language and structure, creating a new version also having changes in the examples cited and the acknowledgment e.g. 'Jones, 1999' and inclusion in the reference list.



6.) Quoting a paragraph by placing it in block format with the source and including it in the list of references.