The Big Picture: Ethics in the University

- University values include:
  - responsibility, integrity, academic freedom, respect, critical thinking, engagement, communication, community, others?
  - These values should be modeled to, and embraced by, students.

- Research & Scholarship:
  - does not take place in a vacuum;
  - is a “community” endeavor;
  - is built upon: it evolves, morphs, (dies?)
What is Academic Integrity?

- Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity based on the values of: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

- Practicing academic integrity means never plagiarizing or cheating, never misrepresenting yourself, never falsifying information, never deceiving or compromising the work of others.
What is Plagiarism?

- Taking and using as one’s own, the ideas, or the expression of the ideas (literary, artistic, musical, etc.) of another. (From the Oxford English Dictionary [OED]).

- Basically, this means, either intentionally or unintentionally, using the words or ideas of someone else without giving credit. Plagiarism can range from buying or downloading papers from the Internet to paraphrasing someone else's words or ideas without giving credit.
Is plagiarism widespread?

In a recent survey of 50,000 students on 60 US campuses: 70% admit to some cheating, 40% admit to plagiarizing, 77% do not believe it is a serious issue.

(McCabe, Donald L. 2005. "CAI Research." Center for Academic Integrity.)

The Mount's policy on plagiarism is in the University Calendar
Why do people plagiarize?

- Accidents do happen.
- That’s such a good idea how can I possibly say it any other way…
- Time constraints: there is so much information, and cutting and pasting is just so easy.
- Belief that online material is free to use by anyone; only print sources need to be cited.
- End justifies the means: when faced with the choice between acting with integrity or doing what is unethical, but may ensure success, some choose the latter.
- Belief that it is not a serious offence.
- Belief that there won’t be any consequences.
What is citing?

- Citing means to give official mention (OED); to give credit to the person whose idea you are using. This means providing information so someone else can locate the specific quotation, article, book, or web site that you used in your research.
Why do we cite? Some history:

- Citing is based on “he said”, “she said”.
- It should accurately attribute a conversation or written dialogue.
- Just about all arguments or positions are based on other statements and ideas. Very few ideas are totally original!
- Research builds on a community of knowledge: as students, you are now part of this community.
There are two kinds of citations:

- An **in-text citation** is in the body of your paper and usually includes AUTHOR and DATE.

- A citation in your **Works Cited list** (Bibliography) at the end of your paper usually includes: AUTHOR, TITLE, PUBLICATION information, DATE of publication and an indication if your source is in electronic or print format.
Which sources need to be cited?

a) Book
b) Electronic book
c) Journal article (print or electronic)
d) Web page
e) Conference paper or technical report
f) Dissertation / Thesis
How to avoid plagiarizing:

- Many people believe that if information is freely available on the Internet it does not need to be cited. **Not true.**
- **Everything** you use in research (a direction quotation, books, image, an article from a full text database or a page from the Internet) **must be cited.**
- Citing means providing information so someone else can locate the specific article, book, or web site that you used in your research.
- A citation consists of brief information like author, title, publisher, place of publication, publication date, etc. and, in the case of electronic information, a URL. Different disciplines require different formats.
How to avoid plagiarizing, con’t:

- A good paper usually involves your own ideas and words, supported by the arguments and scholarship of others. Community!

- Always give credit to others when an idea or written passage is not your own. This does not diminish your paper, rather, it demonstrates that you are using the literature available in a field, and shows you know how to find this information.
How to avoid plagiarizing, con’t:

When reading and taking notes, practice including quotation marks (" ") whenever you copy text or use someone else’s words. This includes:

- taking notes from books and articles
- copying a passage from the internet
- watching or transcribing videos
- interviewing people
Direct Quotations:

- Whenever you quote, **immediately** write down the citation.

- CSE, when using the Name-Year system, requires **author** and **date** next to a direct quote, e.g., *(Smith 2005)*

- Different disciplines require different information next to the quotation and in the reference list. The Works Cited list, References list or Bibliography is the place where you are required to provide a full citation.
Works Cited vs. Bibliography

Works Cited

- Sometimes called:
  - Reference List
  - References section
  - Notes (or End Notes)

- Includes only the sources you quoted or paraphrased

Bibliography

- Includes every source you consulted regardless of whether you quoted or paraphrased from the source
Quotation Example

The quote and in-text citation in your paper:

“There is probably no other time throughout a semester when negative emotions are at their peak in students' minds and bodies as in the first half hour of an exam” (Berk 151). This example uses the MLA style Author – Page Number.

The citation in your Works Cited list (Bibliography) at the end of your paper:

What is paraphrasing?

Paraphrasing means taking the words or writings of someone else and putting them in your own words; rewriting a sentence or a paragraph using different words.

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/1/
Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing others’ words:

● Many people inadvertently commit plagiarism when paraphrasing others' words and ideas, believing they only have to change a few words around. Not true. Paraphrasing is OK when:
  – you do not follow the original source too closely AND
  – you give credit to the original writer

● Hint: If you are going to **paraphrase** a section, **read** the passage over **several times** very carefully and then write your notes from memory.
Paraphrasing example

Original passage:

"But life is never all hardship for a growing boy. The surrounding country was wild enough for any imaginative youngster to find adventure in" (Bryce 25).

Unacceptable paraphrase:

For a growing boy, life is never all hardship. For anyone with imagination, the countryside was wild enough for adventures.

Acceptable paraphrase:

According to Robert Bryce, in a countryside like the one Cook grew up in, an adventurous boy could compensate for life's hardships (25).
When not to cite:

- When you are writing up your own original observations, thoughts, or opinions.
- When you are discussing items of common knowledge such as the year of Canadian confederation (1867) or the fact that a whale is a mammal.
- Common knowledge is subjective and will vary by discipline.
Resources

Your professors, Library, Writing Resource Centre (EMF 127 F)


Online help for CSE style:  
http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/lls/students/cse_citation.html
Questions?
Comments?
Concerns?