



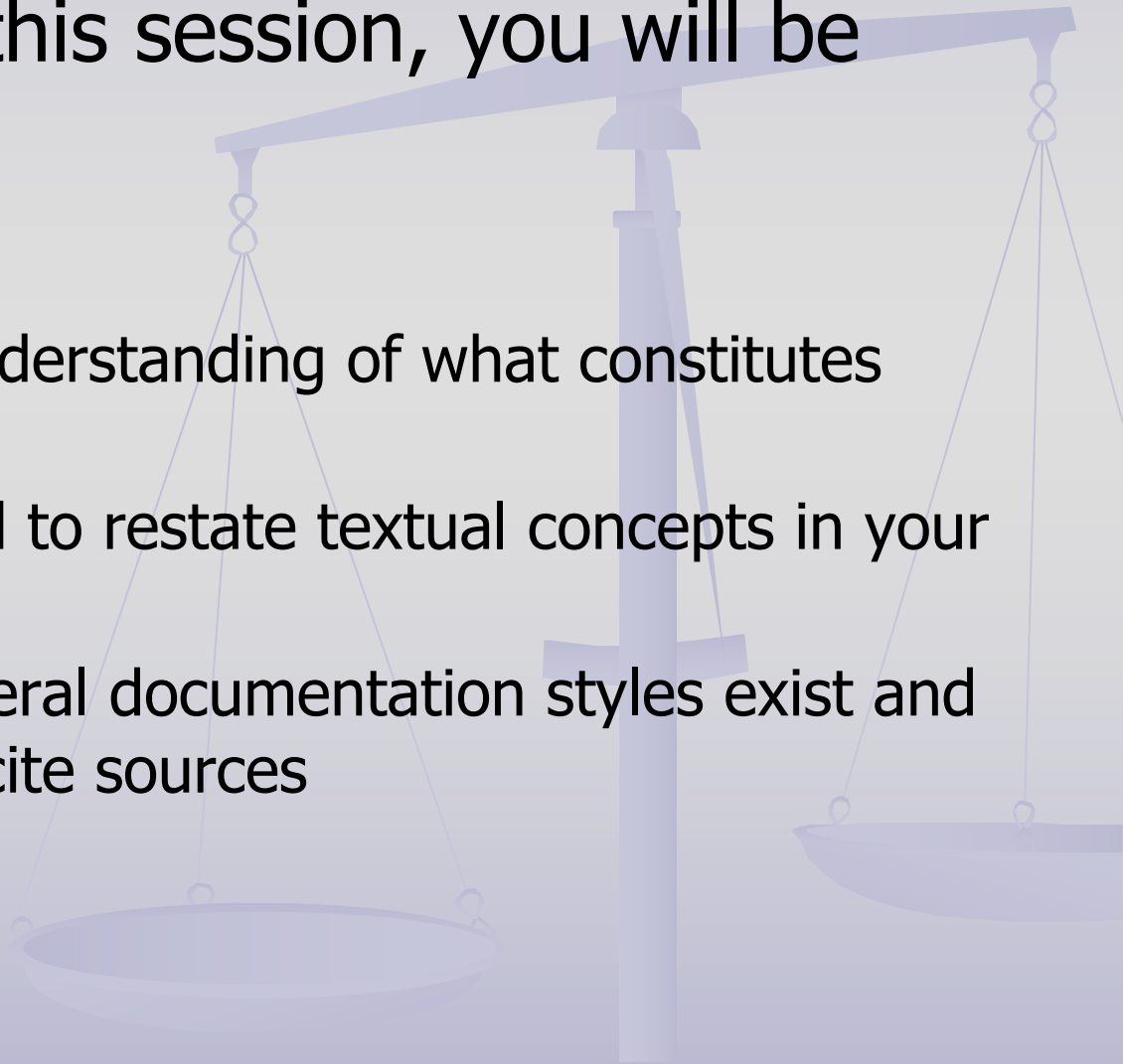
Understanding Plagiarism:

What You NEED to Know

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Owen Library
Spring 2009

Outcomes

- At the end of this session, you will be able to do:
 1. Demonstrate an understanding of what constitutes plagiarism
 2. Recognize the need to restate textual concepts in your own words
 3. Recognize that several documentation styles exist and should be used to cite sources



Plagiarism: A Crime by Any Name

Copying &
Pasting

Stealing

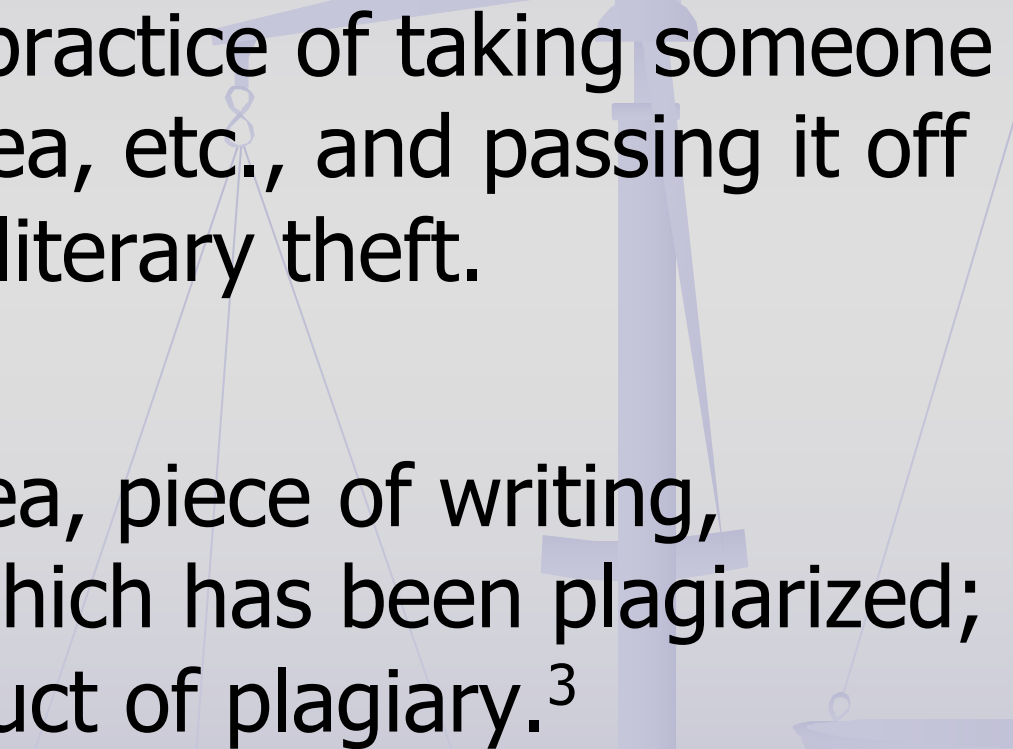
Academic
Dishonesty

Idea
Theft



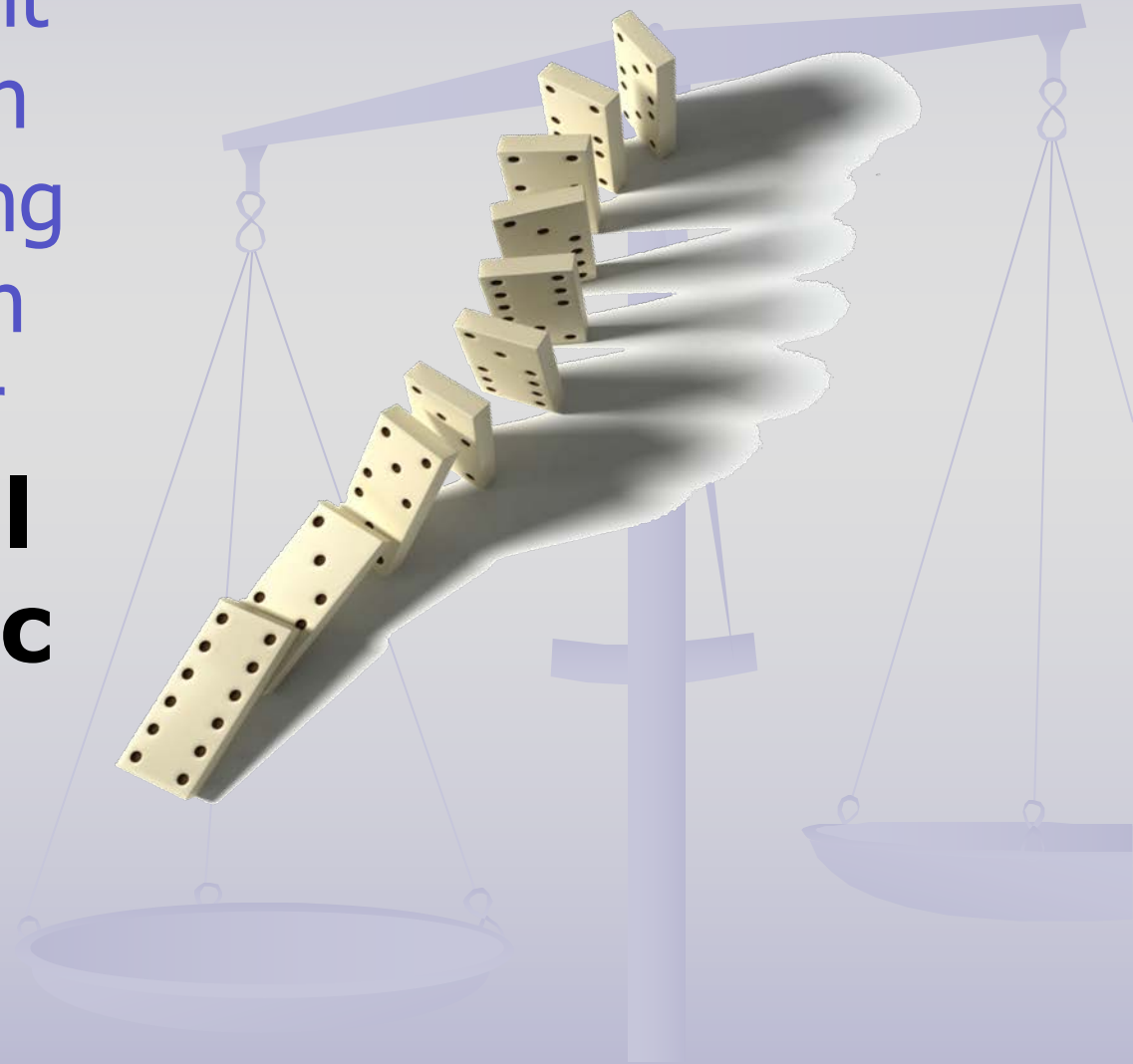
"Borrowing"

Plagiarism: Official Definitions

1. The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft.
 2. A particular idea, piece of writing, design, etc., which has been plagiarized; an act or product of plagiarism.³
- 

Consequences of Plagiarizing

➤ Getting caught plagiarizing can have far-reaching affects ... it can ruin both your **Professional and Academic** lives



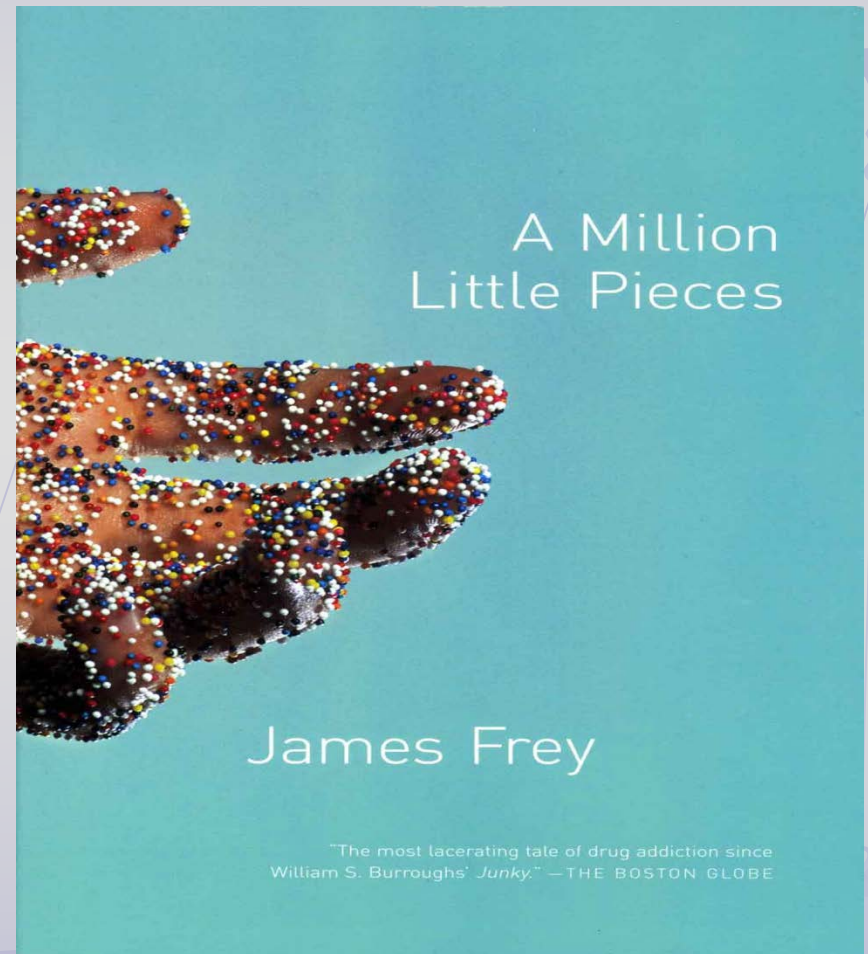
Professional Consequences

- Loss of Credibility
- Impact on Getting Hired
- The ghost of plagiarism



Professional Consequences

- Literary Theft - Examples
 - Kaavya Viswanathan's *How Opal Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life*⁴
 - James Frey's *A Million Little Pieces*⁵



<http://www.amazon.com/Million-Little-Pieces-James-Frey/>

Professional Consequences

■ Other Examples

■ Business⁵

- William Swanson, Raytheon CEO

■ Journalism

- Jayson Blair, *New York Times* reporter

■ Higher Education

- Bryan LeBeau, UMKC history professor⁶

■ Music

- Johnny Cash⁷

The New York Times National May 11, 2003

Home - Site Index - Site Search/Archive - Help

Welcome, - Member Center - Log Out

Go to a Section Go

Search: Search

NYTimes.com > National

CORRECTING THE RECORD

Times Reporter Who Resigned Leaves Long Trail of Deception

A staff reporter for The New York Times committed frequent acts of journalistic fraud while covering significant news events in recent months, an investigation by Times journalists has found. The widespread fabrication and plagiarism represent a profound betrayal of trust and a low point in the 152-year history of the newspaper.


The reporter, Jayson Blair, 27, misled readers and Times colleagues with dispatches that purported to be from Maryland, Texas and other states, when often he was far away, in New York. He fabricated comments. He concocted scenes. He lifted material from other newspapers and wire services. He selected details from photographs to create the impression he had been somewhere or seen someone, when he had not.

And he used these techniques to write falsely about emotionally charged moments in recent history, from the deadly sniper attacks in suburban Washington to the anguish of families grieving for loved ones killed in Iraq.

In an inquiry focused on correcting the record and explaining how such fraud could have been sustained within the ranks of The Times, the Times journalists have so far uncovered new problems in at least 36 of the 73 articles Mr. Blair wrote since he started getting national reporting assignments late last October. In the final months the audacity of the deceptions grew by the week, suggesting the work of a troubled young man veering toward professional self-destruction.

Mr. Blair, who has resigned from the paper, was a reporter at The Times for nearly four years, and he was prolific. Spot checks of the more than 600 articles he wrote before October have found other apparent fabrications, and that inquiry continues. The Times is asking readers to report any additional falsehoods in Mr. Blair's work; the e-mail address is retrace@nytimes.com.

Every newspaper, like every bank and every police department, trusts its employees to uphold central principles, and the inquiry found that Mr. Blair repeatedly violated the cardinal tenet of journalism, which is simply truth. His tools of deceit were a cellphone and a



The New York Times
Jayson Blair, who worked for The Times for four years before resigning on May 1.

ARTICLE TOOLS

- E-Mail This Article
- Printer-Friendly Format
- Most E-Mailed Articles
- Reprints
- Single-Page Format

This article was reported and written by Dan Barry, David Barstow, Jonathan D. Glater, Adam Liptak and Jacques Steinberg. Research support was provided by Alain Delage, Anne and Carolyn Wilder.

Readers with information about other articles by Jayson Blair that may be false wholly or in part are asked to e-mail The Times: retrace@nytimes.com.

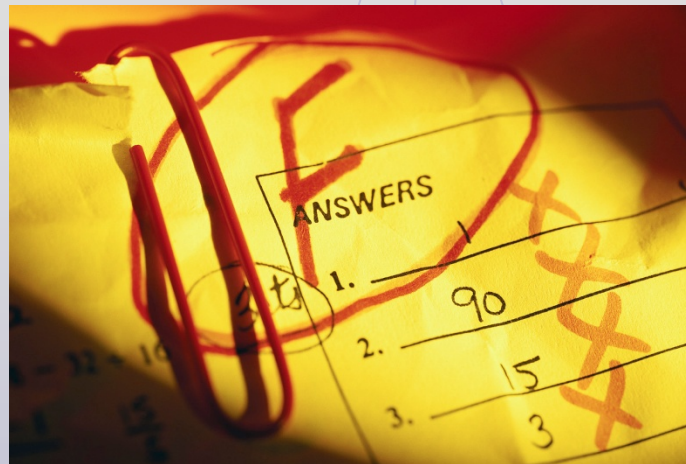
University of Pittsburgh Guidelines on Academic Integrity

■ Part I: Student Obligations:

- "A Student at [UPJ] has an obligation to exhibit honesty, and to respect ethical standards in carrying out his or her academic assignments ... a student may be found to have violated this obligation if he or she:
 - Presents as one's own, for academic evaluation, the ideas, representations, or words of another person or persons without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources
 - Submits the work of another person in a manner which represents the work to be one's own⁸

Academic Consequences

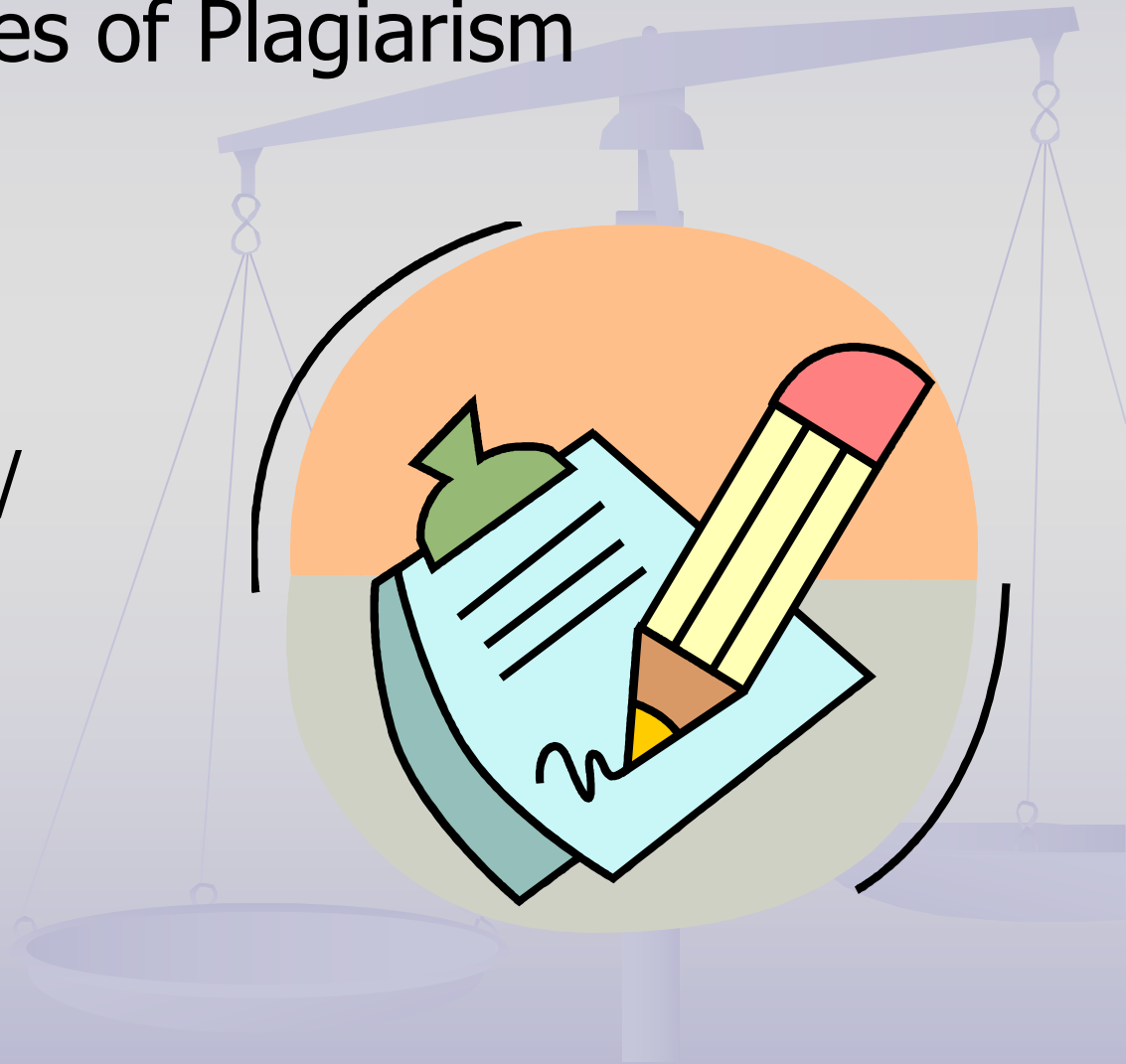
- Consequences can range from:
 - Failing assignment grade
 - Failing course grade
 - Temporary suspension from the University
 - Permanent expulsion from the University⁸



Avoiding Plagiarism

- Two Main Types of Plagiarism

1. Intentional
2. Unintentional /
Accidental



Why Plagiarism Happens



Avoiding Plagiarism

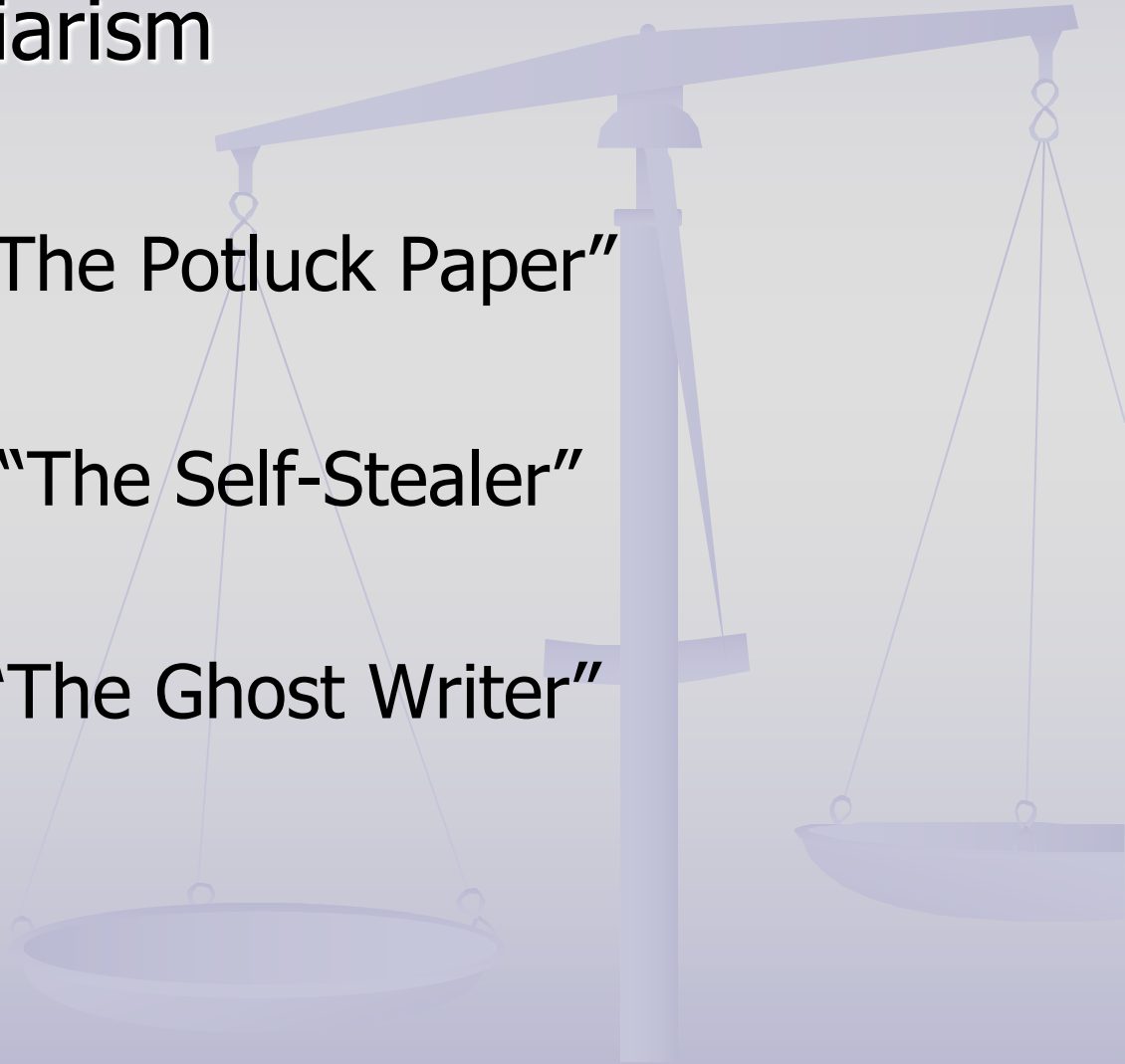
- Intentional Plagiarism



- "The Potluck Paper"

- "The Self-Stealer"

- "The Ghost Writer"



Avoiding Plagiarism

Know the traps
.... you will

Get Caught!!
Get Caught!!



Avoiding Plagiarism

■ Professors' Plagiarism Detection Tools:

1. Paper Mill websites

- <http://www.1sttermpaper.com/index.htm>
- <http://www.free-college-essays.com/>

2. Turn-it-in and SafeAssign

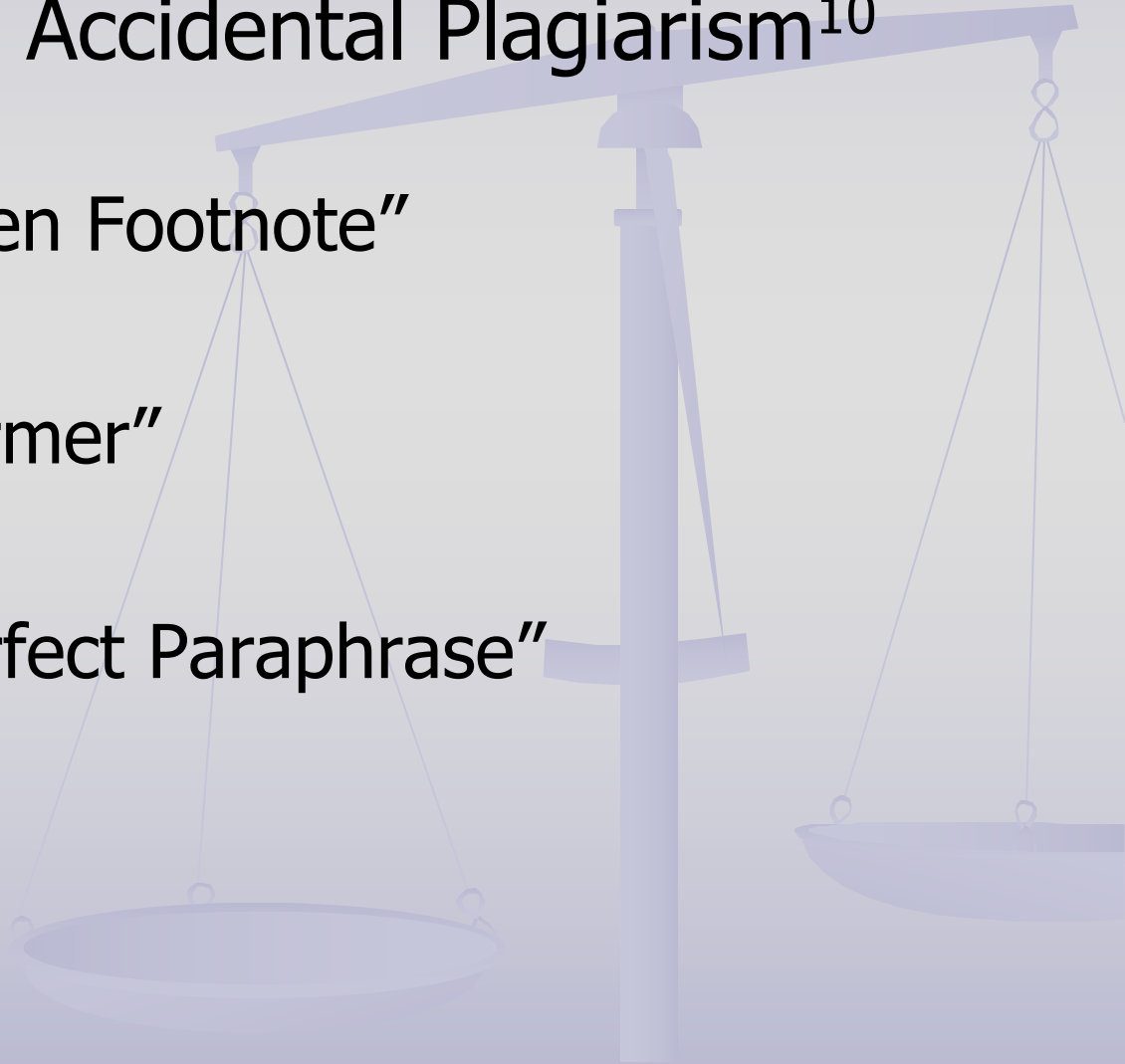
- Searches billions of online sources
- Shows percentage of paper that is plagiarized⁹



Avoiding Plagiarism

- Unintentional or Accidental Plagiarism¹⁰

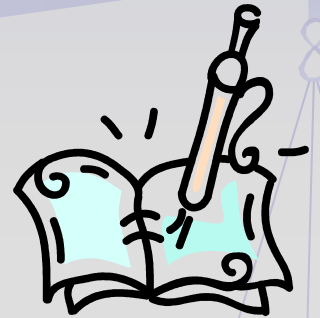
- "The Forgotten Footnote"
- "The Misinformer"
- "The Too-Perfect Paraphrase"



Avoiding Plagiarism

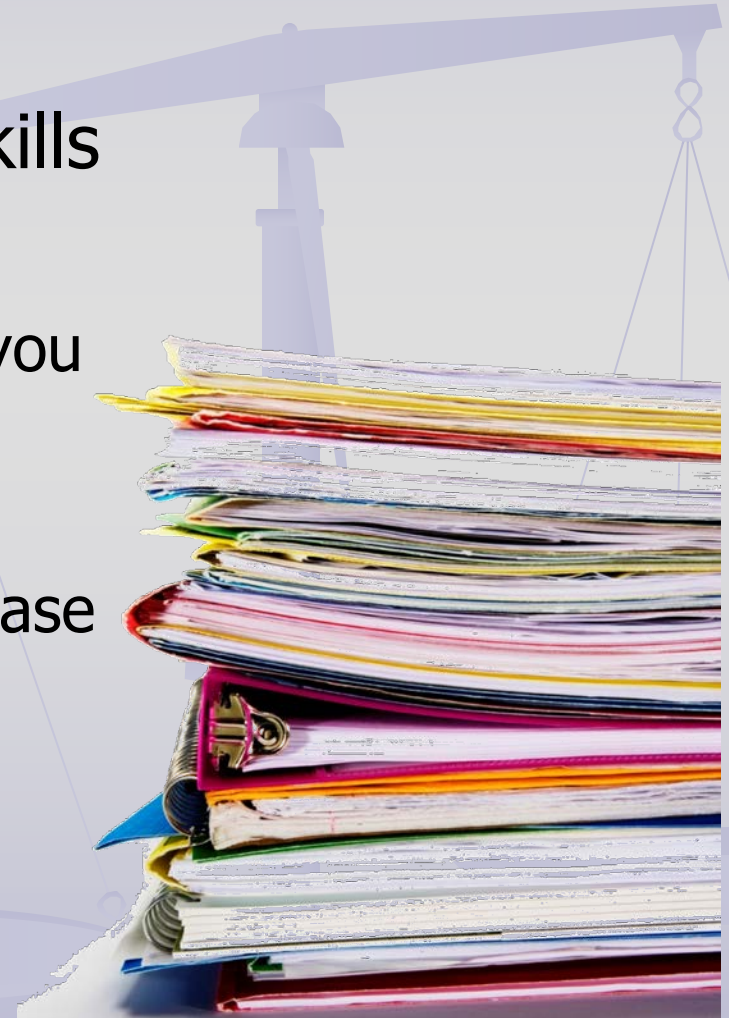
■ Unintentional Plagiarism: The Causes

1. You can't understand your notes
1. You forget to put quotations marks around someone else's words
1. You're in a hurry to finish your paper and forget to include citations ... or you don't know how to properly format them¹¹



Avoiding Plagiarism

- Help Yourself:
 - Practice good researching skills
 - Make a list of all the sources you both use AND consult
 - Learn to summarize / paraphrase
 - Know when to use quotations
 - Common knowledge



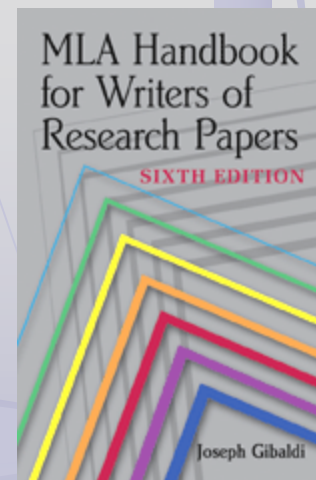
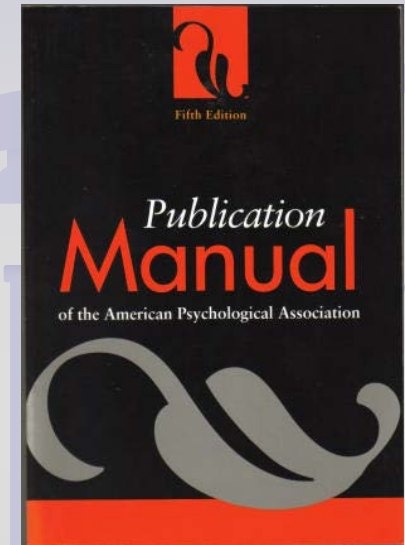
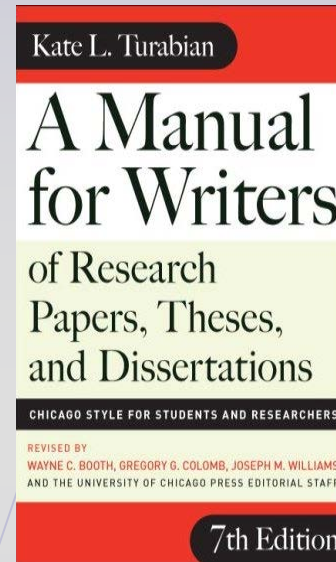
Avoiding Plagiarism

- Be a conscientious note-taker
 - Write down source and page number of quotes
 - Organize notes by subject or source
 - Evaluate your sources



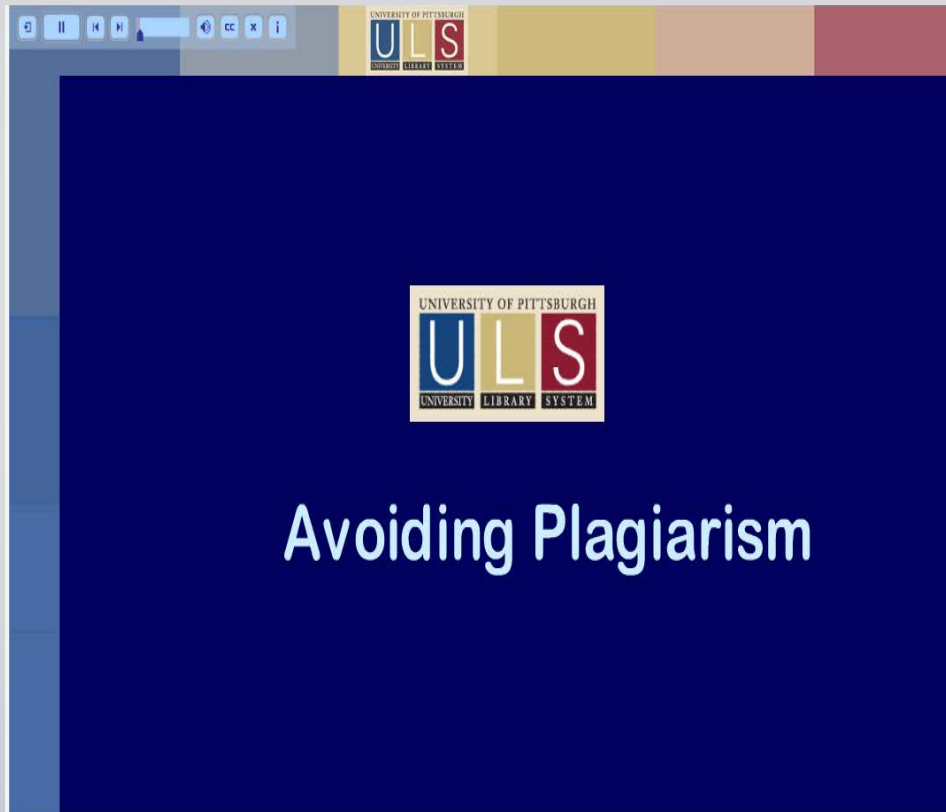
Avoiding Plagiarism

- Cite your sources!!!!
 - Consult citation manuals for:
 - What to cite
 - When to cite
 - How to cite
 - Citation formats vary by discipline – ask your professor!



<http://www.amazon.com>

Avoiding Plagiarism



■ Let Others Help You:

■ Check out this list of:

- Plagiarism & Citation Tutorials and Guides
- Citation Aids



What Have
You Learned?

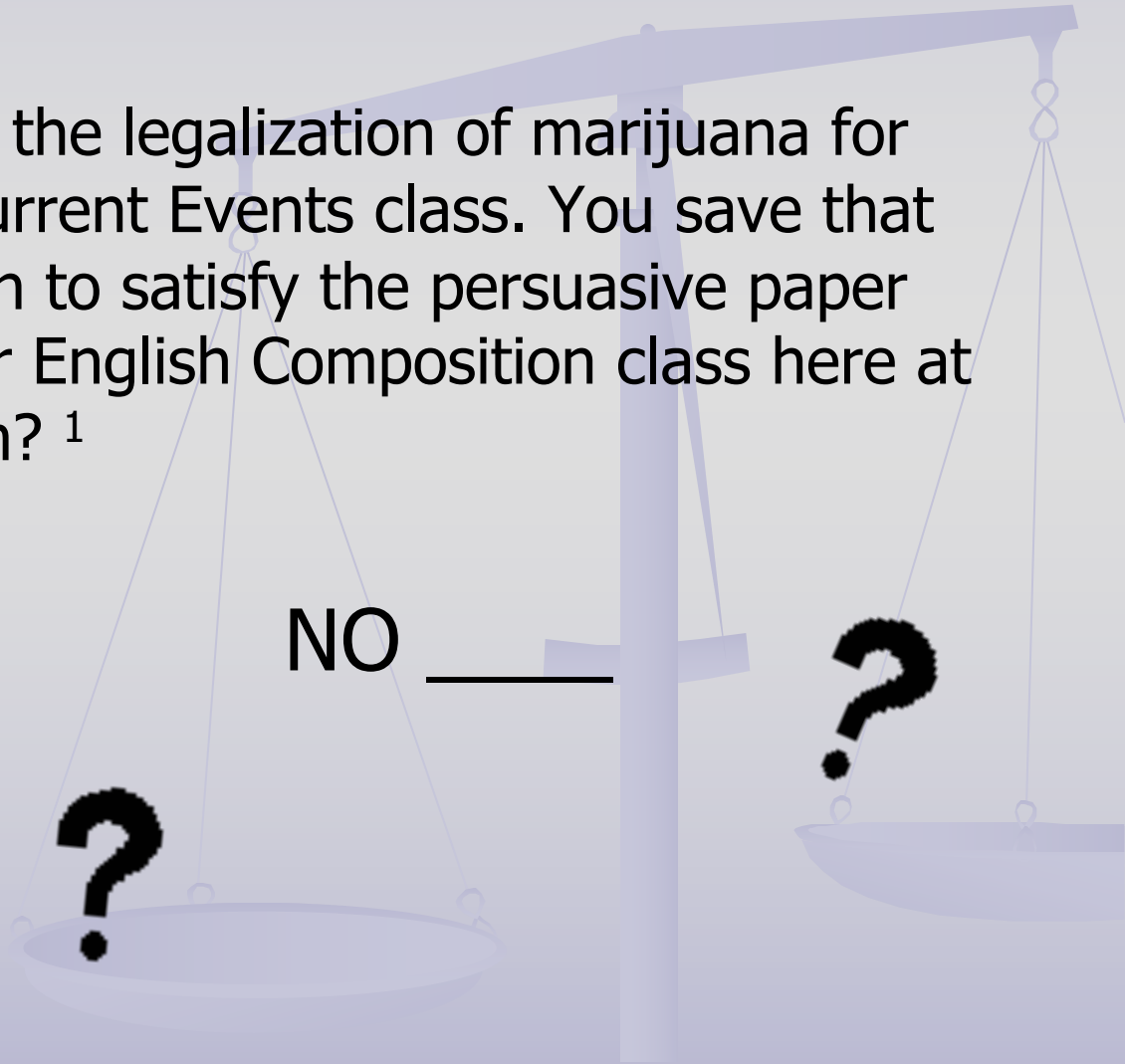
YOU be the judge!

1. You write a paper on the legalization of marijuana for your high school Current Events class. You save that paper and hand it in to satisfy the persuasive paper requirement in your English Composition class here at UPJ. Is it plagiarism? ¹



YES _____

NO _____



YOU be the judge!

2. You are working on a slide show presentation for your literature class. You want to make the point that Shakespeare's works have been plagiarized throughout the centuries. You capture a painting of Shakespeare from the Web for your first slide. Is it plagiarism? ¹

? YES _____

NO _____

?

?

YOU be the judge!

3. In your slide show presentation about Shakespeare's works, you include a snippet of famous dialogue from Romeo and Juliet. Is it plagiarism? ¹

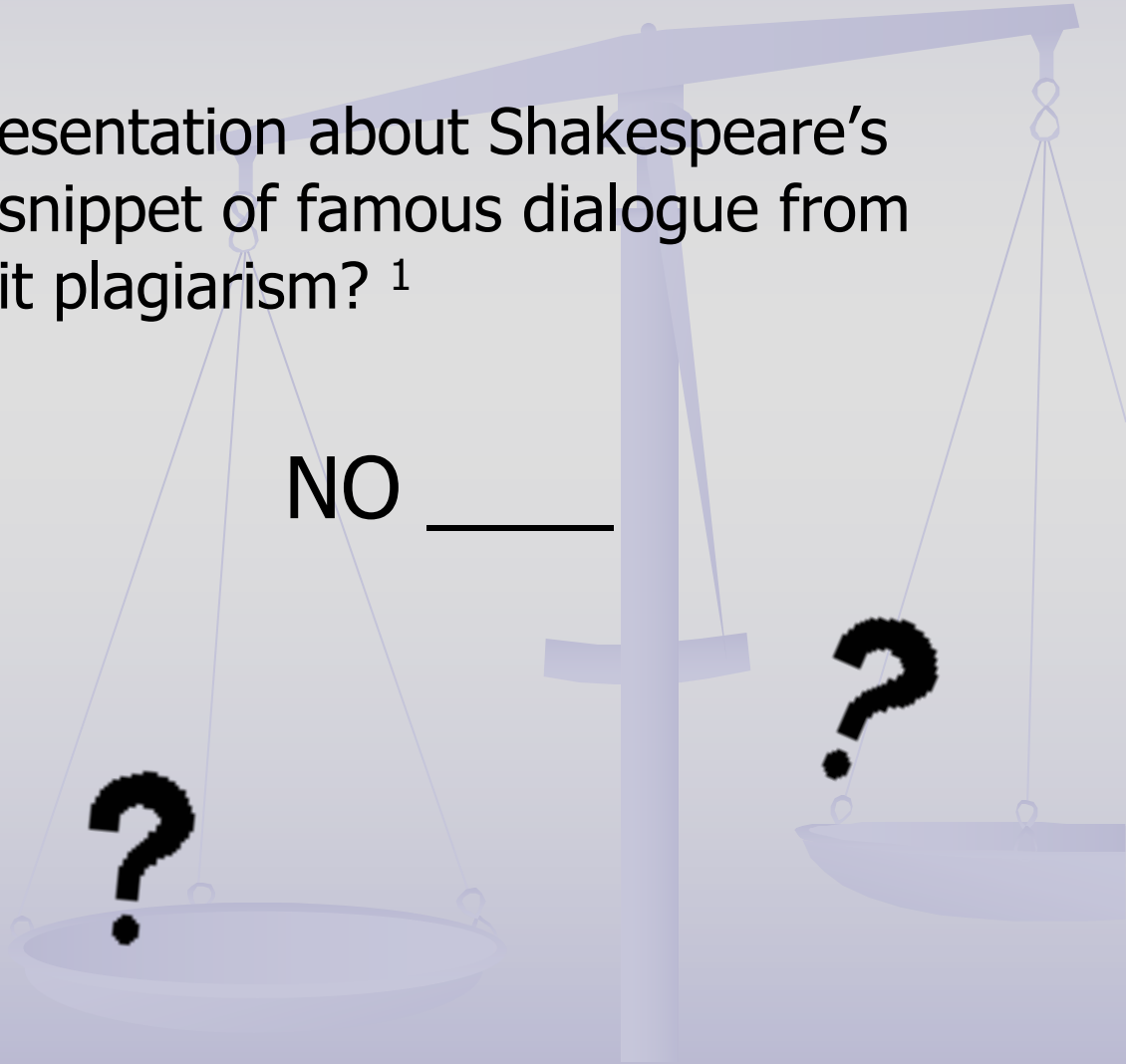
YES _____

NO _____

?

?

?



YOU be the judge!

4. Your philosophy professor says some interesting things in today's lecture on Plato. You decide to use her ideas to begin your paper. Is it plagiarism? ¹

YES _____

NO _____



YOU be the judge!

5. Your mom offered to help you write your English comp research paper when you were home for Spring Break. She rewrote part of the paper to make it more interesting and authoritative. Is it plagiarism? ²

YES _____

NO _____



YOU be the judge!

6. You use Google to find a web site that talks about recycling policies in your area. You find some statistics on the amount of recycled material collected in the last year. You cite these statistics in your paper, and include the source of the information. Is it plagiarism?

?

YES _____

NO _____

?

?

YOU be the judge!

7. You decide to use a quote from the President's State of the Union Address in the current events speech for your Public Speaking class. You figure you don't need to cite anything because it's not written down. Is it plagiarism?

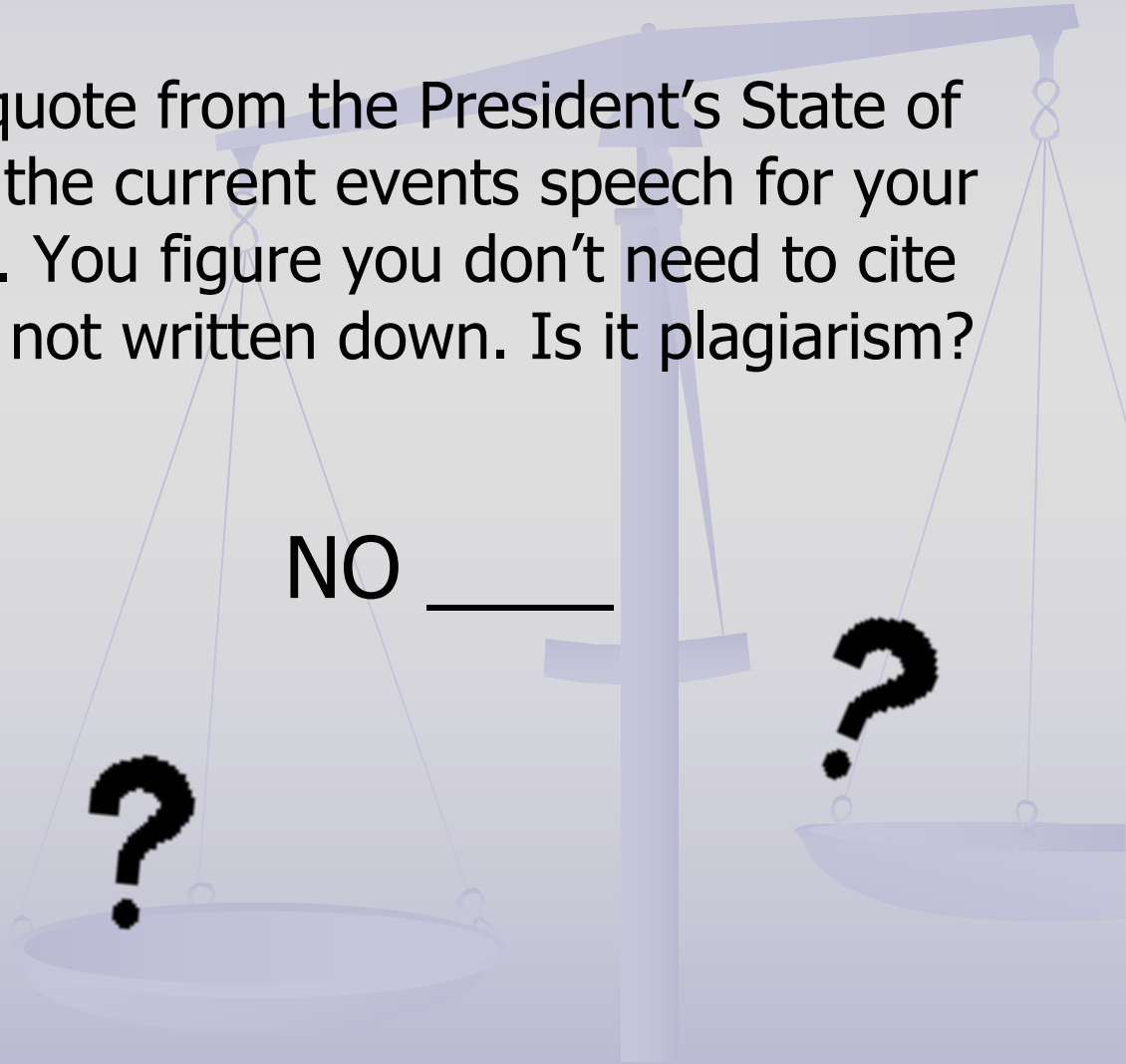
?

YES _____

NO _____

?

?



YOU be the judge!

8. You find a really good article on using text messages to communicate in a scholarly journal. You paraphrase by changing a few words within a section of the text and then use it in your paper. Is it plagiarism? ²

? YES _____

NO _____



Remember ...

- Plagiarism is a very serious offense ... as you've seen, it can have far-reaching affects
- If you are ever in doubt as to whether or not you might be plagiarizing, *ASK* your professor or a librarian. We're here to help!!

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26 Nov 2007>.

Citation Style: MLA

Contact Me

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 - 269-7287
 - If you need help with your research or with creating citations, a reference librarian at Owen Library can assist you!
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