

Plagiarism

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Plagiarism

In Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism>, accessed 18 June 2010) plagiarism is defined as follows:

‘Plagiarism, as defined in the 1995 Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary, is the “use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.” ’

The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines plagiarise as:

“take and use another person’s (thoughts, writings, inventions) as one’s own.”

What you should and should not do

- When you copy background material, note immediately where you got the material from
- Do not use any material for which you don't know the sources.
- NEVER EVER USE OTHER PEOPLE'S WORK SO THAT IS APPEARS TO BE YOUR OWN. NOT EVEN A SINGLE LINE (be it code or text).

VERY WRONG

Logic is very important in the development of this software. “Logic!” said the Professor half to himself. “Why don’t they teach logic at these schools? There are only three possibilities. Either your sister is telling lies, or she is mad, or she is telling the truth. You know she doesn’t tell lies and it is obvious that she is not mad. For the moment then and unless any further evidence turns up, we must assume that she is telling the truth.”

The whole text appears to be your own intellectual property. Since it is not, this constitutes plagiarism if detected in a dissertation with severe consequences.

Also WRONG

Logic is very important in the development of this software. “Logic!” said the Professor half to himself. “Why don’t they teach logic at these schools? There are only three possibilities. Either your sister is telling lies, or she is mad, or she is telling the truth. You know she doesn’t tell lies and it is obvious that she is not mad. For the moment then and unless any further evidence turns up, we must assume that she is telling the truth.” [C.S.Lewis. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. 1950]

It is not clear which parts are own text and which parts are taken from the source. It appears that the text is your own with ideas of C.S.Lewis.

RIGHT

Logic is very important in the development of this software.

“Logic!” said the Professor half to himself. “Why don’t they teach logic at these schools? There are only three possibilities. Either your sister is telling lies, or she is mad, or she is telling the truth. You know she doesn’t tell lies and it is obvious that she is not mad. For the moment then and unless any further evidence turns up, we must assume that she is telling the truth.”

[C.S.Lewis. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. 1950, p.47f]

From the layout it is clear that the first sentence is own text while the rest is from the source.

also RIGHT

Logic is very important in the development of this software. For instance, C.S.Lewis says in [The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. 1950, p.47f] the following:

““Logic!” said the Professor half to himself. “Why don’t they teach logic at these schools? There are only three possibilities. Either your sister is telling lies, or she is mad, or she is telling the truth. You know she doesn’t tell lies and it is obvious that she is not mad. For the moment then and unless any further evidence turns up, we must assume that she is telling the truth.””

From the layout and the wording it is clear that the first sentence is own text while the rest is from the source.

also RIGHT (and much better)

Logic is very important in the development of this software. As C.S. Lewis lets a professor say in [C.S.Lewis. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. 1950, p.47f], it is very important that logic is taught in schools, since it allows us to arrive at the right conclusions when sufficient information is given.

The text is digested and reformulated, thus no longer C.S. Lewis' text, albeit the new formulation is related to its source and must be mentioned.

Potential Consequences of Plagiarism

Plagiarism in the Final Year Project:

- less serious cases: typically reduce the mark by 10.
- serious cases: reduce mark to zero, or exclude student.

Note: there is plagiarism detection software and we may use it.

[Also forbidden: **self-plagiarism**]

Further Info

Quoting:

<http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~pxc/proj/ProjectReport.html>

<http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~pxc/refs/>

Plagiarism:

<http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/internal/students/plagiarism.htm>

[http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/internal/students/local/
plagiarism-cases.html](http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/internal/students/local/plagiarism-cases.html)

<http://www.cs.bham.ac.uk/~mmk/admin/plag-slides11.pdf>