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BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Success Study Tips

Plagiarism: What is it and how to avoid it

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What is Plagiarism?

When I was asked to write an article about plagiarism, I decided to begin with a brief survey in the Tutoring Center to see how well students understand what plagiarism is. I asked several students to define it in one sentence. Their definitions are below:

"Plagiarism is taking someone else's work and using it as your own without giving credit to the person who thought of it."

"The use of another individual's work without giving the proper credit or acknowledgment through the use of some type of citation."

"Plagiarism is taking someone else's work word for word and using it in something you are writing without citing it."

Plagiarism can also be defined as literary theft. Some students mistakenly think that only quotations have to be cited. This is not true. Any information

used must be cited. For example, if you are writing a paper about population problems and find the year when world population exceeded 7 billion, you must credit (cite) the source of that information.

Avoiding plagiarism is not difficult. There are several steps:

First, choose a topic suitable for your academic level. For example, few undergraduate students have the necessary educational background to write about rocket science or brain surgery. When students do not understand the text, they are tempted to copy it word for word.

Next, read the material several times to make sure that you understand it. (This is called studying.) Highlight the passages you intend to incorporate into your paper.

Finally, in your own words, write a summary of the material you have read. This is called paraphrasing. Be sure to cite the author or the source of that material.

With a little effort, you can avoid plagiarizing--and may even enjoy writing!



Don't forget to check out the Beck Library on the student portal for lots of valuable information on citing and plagiarism.

Below are a few online resources to help check your work for potential plagiarism issues.

<http://www.dustball.com/cs/plagiarism.checker/>

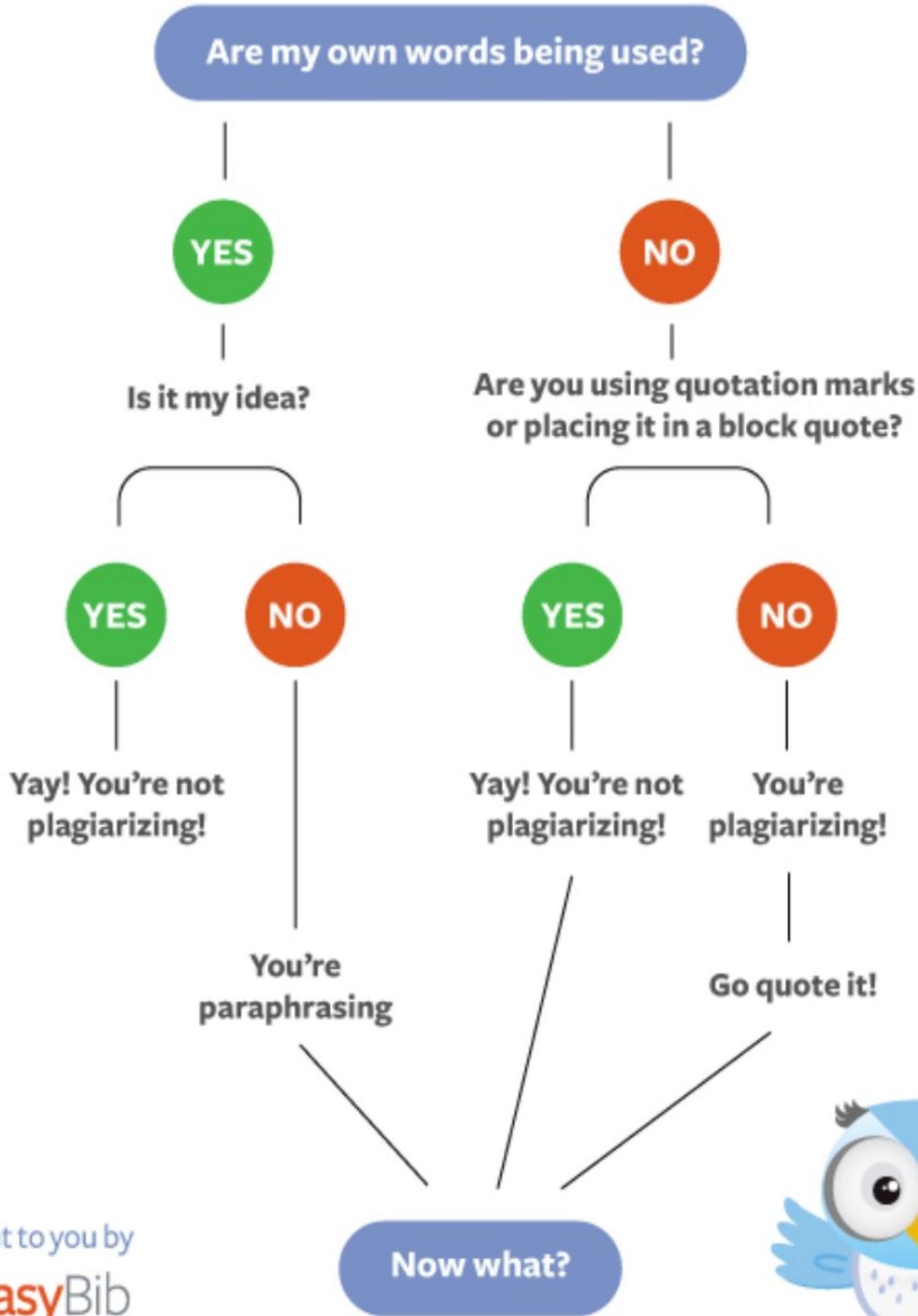
<http://duplichecker.com/>

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A GENERAL GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING WRITTEN PLAGIARISM



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How to Recognize Plagiarism. Indiana University Bloomington's School of Education, 2005. Web.
<<https://www.indiana.edu/~lstd/overview.html>>.