How to Avoid Plagiarism
aka Academic Dishonesty
What is Plagiarism?

- According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means:
  - to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
  - to use (another's production) without crediting the source
  - to commit literary theft
  - to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source
- In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward. (Plagiarism.org)
According to Plagiarism.org—

- All of the following are considered plagiarism:
  - turning in someone else's work as your own
  - copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
  - failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
  - giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
  - changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
  - copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not
How Can I Avoid It?

• Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources.

• Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.
What is a citation?

A "citation" is the way you tell your readers that certain material in your work came from another source. It also gives your readers the information necessary to find that source again, including:

- information about the author
- the title of the work
- the name and location of the company that published your copy of the source
- the date your copy was published
- the page numbers of the material you are borrowing

(Plagiarism.org)
Why should I cite sources?

• **Because…**

• *Giving credit to the original author by citing sources is the only way to use other people's work without plagiarizing.*

• **Doesn't citing sources make my work seem less original?**

• Not at all. On the contrary, citing sources actually helps your reader distinguish your ideas from those of your sources. This will actually emphasize the originality of your own work. (Plagiarism.org)
But there are a number of other reasons to cite sources:

- Citations are extremely helpful to anyone who wants to find out more about your ideas and where they came from.
- Not all sources are good or right -- your own ideas may often be more accurate or interesting than those of your sources. Proper citation will keep you from taking the rap for someone else's bad ideas.
- Citing sources shows the amount of research you've done.
- Citing sources strengthens your work by lending outside support to your ideas.

(Plagiarism.org)
When do I need to cite?

- Whenever you borrow words or ideas, you need to acknowledge their source. The following situations almost always require citation:
  - whenever you use quotes
  - whenever you paraphrase
  - whenever you use an idea that someone else has already expressed
  - whenever you make specific reference to the work of another
  - whenever someone else's work has been critical in developing your own ideas.
- (Plagiarism.org)
How do I incorporate quotations in my paper?

- Let's say you want to quote from the following passage in an essay called "United Shareholders of America," by Jacob Weisberg:

  EXAMPLE-----

- In his essay, “United Shareholders of America,” Jacob Weisberg insists that “The citizen-investor serves his fellow citizens badly by his inclination to withdraw from the community. He tends to serve himself badly… by focusing his pursuit of happiness on something that very seldom makes people happy in the way they expect it to.”
Where can I get help using MLA Format?

- The Owl@Purdue website:
  owl.english.purdue.edu

- OR----

- The Writing Center @ The University of Wisconsin-Madison:
  Writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocMLA.html
OR—You Can Try Plagiarisma.net

- It’s a free tool to use for your plagiarism detection!
- Although you have the prerogative to select paid subscription, you can very well complete your tasks using this free option.
The tool is **really fast and accurate** in scanning large files.

Some Impressive Features…

It allows you to use more features including scanning larger documents.

It has about **10 billion sources**, which makes it more accurate and thorough in tracking down similar content.

*(See the webpage below…)*
What If You Are Caught Plagiarizing At Vista del Lago High School?

- Consequences include:
  - Saturday School,
  - Completing the *Plagiarism Packet*,
  - A zero on the assignment/and or a penalized grade if re-done,
  - A notation in your school file.

- Don’t risk it!
- Trust Yourself!
I show Mom my report.
‘I wanted it to be interesting, so I exaggerated.’
(Exaggerate is a fancy word for stretching the truth.)
‘Honey,’ Mom says,
‘you didn’t just exaggerate. You made stuff up. That’s lying.’

~Jane O’Connor, author of Fancy Nancy

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WRITE
ONE TRUE SENTENCE
WRITE THE TRUEST SENTENCE YOU KNOW

Ernest Hemingway

use your own voice