Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using someone else’s work without giving credit to the original source. If you take a phrase or sentence or paragraph from another source and include it in your own work without citing the original source, then that’s plagiarism. If you take an idea from another source and include it in your own work without citing the original source, that’s also plagiarism. It doesn’t matter if the original source is a book, a journal article, a web site, or another student, you are still presenting someone else’s work as your own and therefore you are plagiarizing.

Even if you rephrase a sentence, paragraph, or idea, it is still plagiarism if you don’t give credit to the original source. As the 6th edition of the APA Publication Manual states, “each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of sentences and change some of the words), you need to credit the source” (APA, 2010, p. 15).

If you are unsure about whether something you have included in your own work is possibly plagiarized, ask yourself the following: Is this phrase/sentence/paragraph/idea original to me or did it originate in another source? If it came from another source – even if you’ve rephrased it – you need to cite the original source to avoid committing plagiarism.

Memorial’s Writing Centre provides information on plagiarism (http://www.mun.ca/writingcentre/plagiarism/) and the University of Toronto has a web page on how not to plagiarize (http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).

Reference