



AVOIDING PLAGIARISM



“What is plagiarism?”

Plagiarism means using other people’s words or ideas in your assignments without saying where you got them from. This can occur when you are trying to understand new or unfamiliar material or take notes by copying from the original. However, by not acknowledging the source of information in your work, you are suggesting these are your own ideas.



“What is academic integrity?”

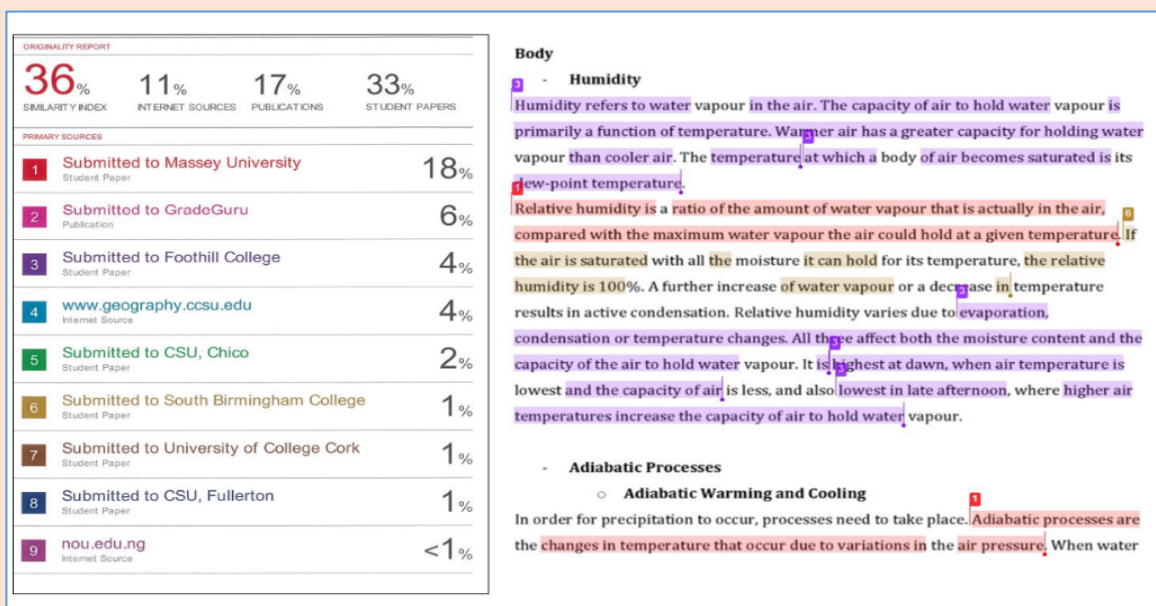
Academic integrity is a core university value: staff and students should treat each other honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. This also applies to acknowledging the original authors and creators of all written, visual and online material. Even if you already know the information, it is important to refer to expert sources to support your views. This shows your understanding of key authors and ideas within your subject area.



“How will anyone know if I have plagiarised?”

Course coordinators may ask you to upload assignments using [Turnitin](#), an online tool for identifying plagiarism. Turnitin compares your work with existing online material and prepares a similarity report, based on the percentage of sources you have used.

For example, this Turnitin report shows that the student has **plagiarised**: 36% of their work includes ideas from other sources that have not been acknowledged:



Related resources:

Structure of an essay
Structure of a paragraph

Te Taiako | Student Learning
wgtn.ac.nz/student-learning
student-learning@vuw.ac.nz
+64 4 463 5999

On the other, hand, this Turnitin report shows the student's **academic integrity**: 60% of the paper contains material that has been cited correctly from other sources:

The screenshot displays a Turnitin report for a document titled "Deconstructing research: A methodological critique of the". The document is by D. CLARK. The Turnitin logo and a similarity score of 60% are visible. The document text includes a paragraph about gender-aligned disciplines and a quote from Clark (2009:1). The match overview on the right lists 8 matches, including "Submitted to Universit...", "Bell, Doing Your Resea...", "www.isast.org", and "eprints.worc.ac.uk".



"How do I acknowledge borrowed material in my essay?"

Different subject areas use different **referencing styles** (such as APA, MLA or Chicago). Lecturers will provide guidelines in the course outline. Here, for example, is the same information formatted using different styles:

APA: Stroebe, J., & Vavra, J. (2019). House prices, local demand, and retail prices. *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(3), 1391-1436.

MLA: Stroebe, Johannes, and Joseph Vavra. "House Prices, Local Demand, and Retail Prices." *Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 127, no.3, 2019, pp. 1391-1436.

Chicago: Stroebe, Johannes, and Joseph Vavra. "House prices, local demand, and retail prices." *Journal of Political Economy* 127, no. 3 (2019): 1391-1436.

You acknowledge sources in **two places**:

- 1) abbreviated in the **body of your assignment**:

either in-text citations (e.g. **APA, MLA**):

According to research by Stroebe and Vavra (2019), interest rates affect house prices.

or footnotes (e.g. **Chicago**): Research indicates that interest rates affect house prices.¹

- 2) In full, listed alphabetically at the **end of your assignment** (below is in APA style):

Stroebe, J., & Vavra, J. (2019). House prices, local demand, and retail prices. *Journal Political Economy*, 127(3), 1391-1436.

¹ Stroebe and Vavra, 2019.

Integrating information from your reading into your writing

Demonstrate your understanding + acknowledge the source

Original text: *The Asian Economy* (C. Zhou, Oxford University Press, 2002, p. 33)

When Singapore gained independence in 1965, it was faced with major pollution problems. The government introduced taxation on motor vehicles and tobacco sales, and enacted anti-littering laws to solve the problem. Because of the cleaner environment resulting from these policies, many multinational companies have since invested in the country.

Paraphrase

= *rewrite using your own words to show understanding*

- When it became independent in 1965, Singapore was heavily polluted. To address this problem, the government began taxing owners of motor vehicles and tobacco users, as well as fining people for littering. This legislation resulted in cleaner surroundings that have attracted many international corporations to invest in Singapore (Zhou 2002, p. 33).

Integrate

= *use borrowed material to support your own views*

- A second, less obvious instance of government's influence on business can be seen in Singapore.
[1] According to a study on the Asian economy, [2] Singapore used to be heavily polluted. However, ever since the country became independent in 1965, a successful government anti-pollution campaign has made the country attractive for offshore investors [3] (Zhou, 2002). [4] This shows how legislation to improve the environment can also have a positive impact on the business sector.

See how the passage tells readers where the borrowed information begins and ends:

1. Introduce context
2. Present information:
 - either paraphrase overall meaning, using your own words
 - or quote exact words from the original, signalled by “...” + page number(s)
3. Acknowledge source (author, date...)
4. End with your own words, explaining relevance to your argument

Making the most of your research

Read with a purpose

- Try and find a range of articles: those that support your opinion, as well as opposing views

Take careful notes

- Record all bibliographic details. Add your own comments
- Use quotation marks to distinguish between your words and the "original text"

Incorporate the material into your essay, establishing its context and significance

- According to Jackson (1998, 23), “ ... ”
- A recent survey of consumers (Vodafone 2002) indicated that...
- *Use quotes sparingly -- aim to paraphrase as much as possible, in order to display your understanding*

NB: Always indicate how the material relates to your own your argument: (This shows...)

Acknowledge the source — in two places

- Within the essay
- At the end, in a list of References