

Research Writing for Leadership and Business

LS 620

Week 8

Assignment 9

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Plagiarism Essay

Plagiarism, at its core, is assuming credit for someone else's words, ideas, or images, otherwise known as "intellectual property", as one's own words, ideas, or images [CITATION Van12 \p 158 \l 1033]. Whether it is intentional or not, when a writer presents someone else's words, ideas, or images as their own material, without giving them credit for their efforts or citing their works, they are committing plagiarism. Van Rys makes the point that it is tantamount to stealing when we do not acknowledge the debt owed to the writer who produced the original words, ideas, or images. The author also makes the assertion plagiarism includes submitting someone else's research paper using the copy-and-paste technique without acknowledging the original author, failing to cite a source, neglecting the necessary quotation marks, and confusing borrowed material with one's own words, ideas, and images [CITATION Van12 \p 159 \l 1033].

The consequences of plagiarism are very severe for anyone who aspires to be a serious writer of integrity. When plagiarism occurs, it can lead to a failing grade, a negative note on a one's academic transcript due to academic dishonesty, and even expulsion from the college or university [CITATION Van12 \p 160 \l 1033]. It also violates the academic community because it disrespects writers, researchers, and readers as related by the author. None of these consequences compare to what happens to the writer who is accused of plagiarism. They lose

their integrity, their reputation, and their ability to build credibility in the academic community.
[CITATION Van12 \l 1033].

As it relates to the reasons why any writer would consider plagiarism, the obvious factor is the character of the writer. Human nature drives us to succeed at all costs, but those who have moral values would not risk their integrity or their credibility. Writers are tempted to improve their work by employing the words, ideas, or images of other writers and taking credit for them. Writers are also tempted to plagiarize to gain the benefit of saving time and effort. Writers are also tempted to plagiarize when they do not want to do the necessary research themselves or are just plain lazy. Plagiarism can also occur when writers do not understand the rules and guidelines, do not take orderly and accurate notes, and use source material out of context or inaccurately[CITATION Van12 \p 162 \l 1033].

References

Van Rys, J. M. (2012). *The Research Writer, Curiosity, Discovery, Dialogue*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth.