



Writing Tips for Discussion Posts

Plagiarism and Summarizing

Summarizing

The Goal of Discussion Postings is to Summarize the material read that pertains to the question asked. Below is a contrast of paraphrasing (paraphrasing is plagiarism if sources are not cited) and summarizing. Please review your work and make sure you have done everything under the "Summary" heading.

| Paraphrase | Summary |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reports your understanding to your reader | <input type="checkbox"/> Reports your understanding to your reader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Records a relatively short passage | <input type="checkbox"/> Records a passage of any length |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Records every point in the passage | <input type="checkbox"/> Selects and condenses, recording only the main ideas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Records these points consecutively | <input type="checkbox"/> Changes the order of ideas when necessary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Includes no interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Explains and (if the writer wishes) interprets IMPORTANT! |

Okay, I am suppose to summarize what I have learned about what the question is asking. So, how do I make sure I don't plagiarize? KEEP READING!



Plagiarizing

There are at least two excellent reasons to avoid plagiarism

1. Plagiarism indicates that you do not know how to do academic work. A writer who presents someone else's ideas as his or her own is said to be guilty of plagiarism and is considered to be incompetent or dishonest. Faculty found guilty of plagiarism may be removed from their positions. Students found guilty of plagiarism may be expelled.

2. Plagiarism is punishable under law. A second consideration concerns "intellectual property."

Anyone, not only academics, can be taken to court for stealing intellectual property.

"Plagiarism means presenting someone else's words and/or ideas as your own

Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional, ranging from buying a paper from an Internet paper-mill and submitting it as your own work to improperly citing a source or forgetting to use quotation marks when necessary."

"Academic integrity is maintained through your interaction with other scholars' work

Academic integrity is about more than mindlessly following citation rules to escape the perils of plagiarism—it's about how you as a writer *interact* with the work of other scholars. You maintain your integrity as a scholar-writer when you treat the writings of the people you encounter during your research with the respect they deserve by crediting them for the knowledge they have created. Integrity is also preserved when you leave a trail of your research that others can follow.

Respect and sharing knowledge—the care you take to properly attribute credit and the authentic way you interact with material from other authors—show others the kind of writer/researcher/thinker *you are*."

Tips to avoid Plagiarism:

1. Take good notes: Do not copy material straight from the source. Take notes that describe the concept in your own words.
2. Cite sources as you go: Citing sources are necessary even if the information is in your own words. Ask yourself, "Did what I write originally come from me?" If the answer is NO, you need to cite your source.
3. Use technology carefully: Copying and pasting information from the Internet and then citing the Internet is still plagiarism. **IT SHOULD BE IN YOUR OWN WORDS!**
4. Do not read the book as you write your answer: Read the book first, take notes in your own words, then write your post and cite where needed.
5. Do not over use quotes: Overusing quotes displays that you do not know the content. However, if you write something word for word from the Internet or a textbook, then quotes should be included.

References

Capella University Writing Center, (2006). *Plagiarism*.

<http://www.capella.edu/interactivemedia/onlinewritingcenter/downloads/handoutPlagiarism2006.pdf>

Spatt, B. (2003). *Writing from sources* (p. 95). New York: NY. Bedford/St. Martin's.