

Avoiding plagiarism

This handout is about understanding
Plagiarism.

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism means using other people's intellectual property (such as images, words, code, ideas) in your assignments without saying where you got them from. This can happen accidentally when you are writing about new or unfamiliar material or when using notes you copied from the original source. If you do not acknowledge information or ideas from other sources in your work, you are suggesting these are your own ideas. This is plagiarism.

How will anyone know I have plagiarised?

There are a variety of ways that markers can identify plagiarism. One of the most common tools is Turnitin, an online resource for identifying similarities between the submitted text and other online texts. You submit your assignment to Turnitin, which produces a similarity report telling your marker what percentage of your writing can be found in other documents online. Usually, students cannot access this report. It is sent directly to the marker.

Markers might identify plagiarism because they recognise the source from which a student is plagiarising. They may also recognise a change in the writing style and be able to find the original source of that text.

What if I thought of the idea by myself?

It is important to demonstrate awareness of scholarly research. Even if you knew, or had an opinion, about a topic before you had done any research, citing authoritative sources shows you are aware of current research in your academic field.



Scan the QR code to
download **Zotero**. Cite
correctly and stay
plagiarism-free.

How do I acknowledge borrowed material in my writing?

You include citations and references for all sources of borrowed material. Different disciplines use different referencing styles (APA, MLA, or Chicago). Lecturers provide guidelines in the course outline.

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. (APA example)

2. In full (usually listed alphabetically), at the end of your assignment in a reference list. There are several terms for 'reference list'. APA and Chicago B use **References**; MLA uses **Works Cited** and Chicago A uses **Bibliography**.

Here is an example of an entry in a reference list at the end of your assignment, formatted using different referencing 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 B** Stroebe, Johannes, and Joseph Vavra. 2019. "House Prices, Local Demand, and Retail Prices." *Journal of Political Economy* 127, no. 3: 1391-1436.

Avoiding plagiarism

This handout is about understanding
Plagiarism.

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism means using other people's intellectual property (such as images, words, code, ideas) in your assignments without saying where you got them from. This can happen accidentally when you are writing about new or unfamiliar material or when using notes you copied from the original source. If you do not acknowledge information or ideas from other sources in your work, you are suggesting these are your own ideas. This is plagiarism.

What is academic integrity?

All the work you produce at university should meet the standards of academic integrity. Work that contains plagiarism does not meet those standards.

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, including AI-generated 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.

For more information about academic integrity

<https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/students/study/exams/academic-integrity>

How will anyone know I have plagiarised?

There are a variety of ways that markers can identify plagiarism. One of the most common tools is Turnitin, an online resource for identifying similarities between the submitted text and other online texts.

You submit your assignment to Turnitin, which produces a similarity report telling your marker what percentage of your writing can be found in other documents online. Usually, students cannot access this report. It is sent directly to the marker.

Markers might identify plagiarism because they recognise the source from which a student is plagiarising. They may also recognise a change in the writing style and be able to find the original source of that text.

“What if I thought of the idea by myself?”

It is important to demonstrate awareness of scholarly research. Even if you knew, or had an opinion, about a topic before you had done any research, citing authoritative sources shows you are aware of current research in your academic field.

How do I acknowledge borrowed material in my writing?

You include citations and references for all sources of borrowed material. Different disciplines use different referencing styles (APA, MLA, or Chicago). Lecturers provide guidelines in the course outline.

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 Stroebel and Vavra (2019), interest rates affect house prices. (APA example)

2. In full (usually listed alphabetically), at the end of your assignment in a reference list. There are several terms for ‘reference list’. APA and Chicago B use **References**; MLA uses **Works Cited** and Chicago A uses **Bibliography**.

Here is an example of an entry in a reference list at the end of your assignment, formatted using different referencing styles:

1

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

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

Chicago B Stroebel, Johannes, and Joseph Vavra. 2019. "House Prices, Local Demand, and Retail Prices." *Journal of Political Economy* 127, no. 3: 1391-1436.



Scan the QR code to download **Zotero**. Cite correctly and stay plagiarism-free.