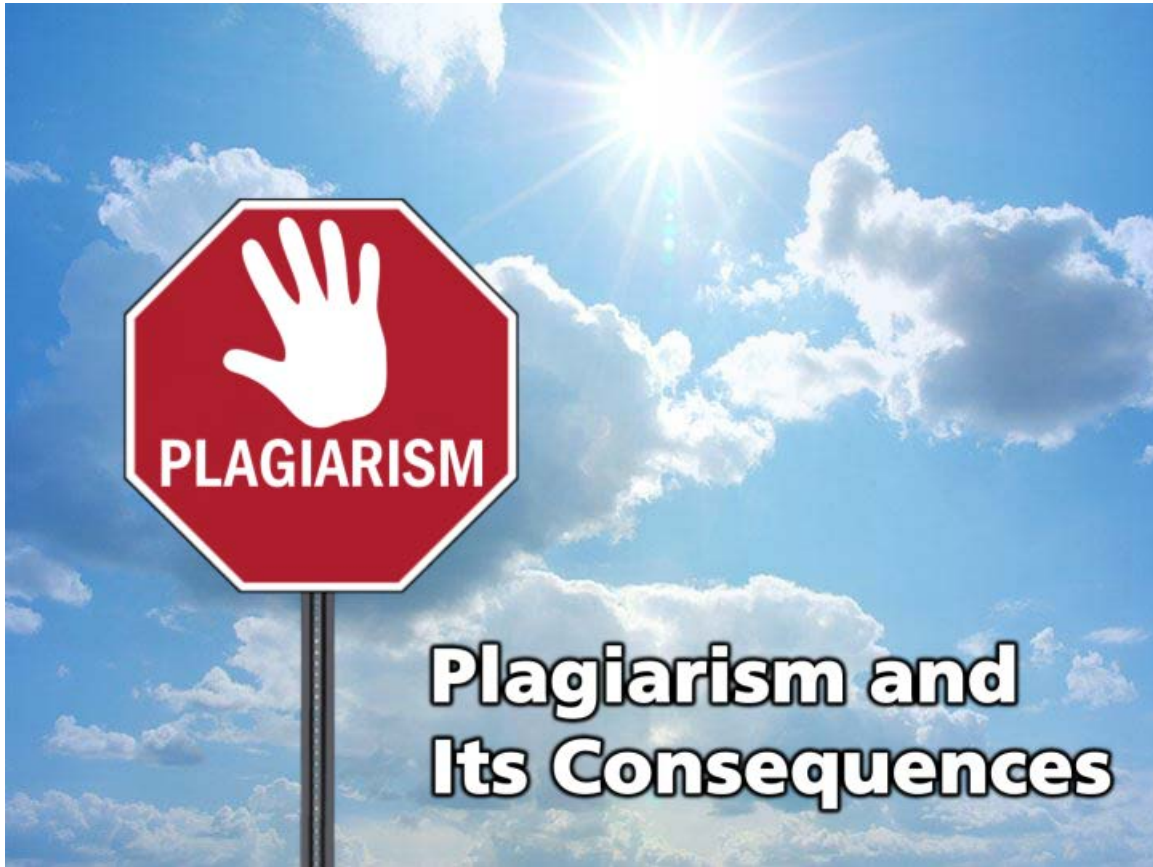


## Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences

### Introduction



Have you ever heard of someone being sued for copyright infringement? Have you ever heard of anyone getting permission to use a song, graphic, work of art, or video, even for only a portion of the work? These situations deal with plagiarism, an important topic to understand for anyone who is interested in publishing an original work. Even for students in an academic setting, plagiarism can have serious consequences. In this interactivity, you will explore what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid plagiarizing information. Click the topics to learn more about plagiarism.

## Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences

### What Is Plagiarism?

## Plagiarism and Its Consequences

Plagiarism is defined as taking someone else's ideas, information, or original works and using them as if they were your own without giving any credit to the source or creator. Plagiarism also includes copying a certain number of words (usually five or more in a row) without using quotation marks to indicate you are quoting information. Keep in mind that copyright laws protect every author's work. As such, you cannot borrow entire works—or the vast majority of someone else's work—to use in your paper, even if you give credit by citing the source information. The majority of your work should come from you, in your own words.

Close

Plagiarism is defined as taking someone else's ideas, information, or original works and using them as if they were your own without giving any credit to the source or creator. Plagiarism also includes copying a certain number of words (usually five or more in a row) without using quotation marks to indicate you are quoting information. Keep in mind that copyright laws protect every author's work. As such, you cannot borrow entire works—or the vast majority of someone else's work—to use in your paper, even if you give credit by citing the source information. The majority of your work should come from you, in your own words.

## Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences

### What Is Plagiarism?

# Plagiarism and Its Consequences

The only information you can use routinely without citing your source is information considered common knowledge. The two statements below are examples of information considered common knowledge.

- George Washington was the first President of the United States.
- When it is really cold outside, precipitation can take the form of sleet or snow.

Consequences

Avoiding

Close

The only information you can use routinely without citing your source is information considered common knowledge. The two statements below are examples of information considered common knowledge.

- George Washington was the first President of the United States.
- When it is really cold outside, precipitation can take the form of sleet or snow.

**Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World**  
**Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

**Consequences of Plagiarism**

**Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

There are serious consequences for a writer who is found to be plagiarizing. Below are just a few examples of the negative consequences of plagiarism. Click each of the examples to find out what may happen as a result of plagiarism.

[Academic](#) [Financial](#) [Professional](#) [Personal](#)

[Close](#)

There are serious consequences for a writer who is found to be plagiarizing. Below are just a few examples of the negative consequences of plagiarism. Click each of the examples to find out what may happen as a result of plagiarism.

**Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World**  
**Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

**Consequences of Plagiarism: Academic**

**Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

Plagiarism is considered a form of cheating, and a course instructor may assign you a failing grade if you plagiarize your work. A failing grade can seriously affect your academic career, but it can also be worse. Many colleges and universities have a strict policy against plagiarism and will permanently expel a student for this infraction. In fact, universities will even revoke your degree if a case of plagiarism is discovered after you have graduated.

Academic   Financial   Professional   Personal

Close

Plagiarism is considered a form of cheating, and a course instructor may assign you a failing grade if you plagiarize your work. A failing grade can seriously affect your academic career, but it can also be worse. Many colleges and universities have a strict policy against plagiarism and will permanently expel a student for this infraction. In fact, universities will even revoke your degree if a case of plagiarism is discovered after you have graduated.

**Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World**  
**Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

**Consequences of Plagiarism: Financial**

**Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

Among the most devastating consequences of plagiarism is the financial cost resulting from a lawsuit by a copyright holder. If you are found guilty of plagiarism in a court of law, you will have to pay fines and restitution to the copyright holder. Such financial penalties have been known to climb into the millions of dollars. And by the way, there may also be criminal penalties, meaning you could face a prison sentence.

Academic   Financial   Professional   Personal

Close

Among the most devastating consequences of plagiarism is the financial cost resulting from a lawsuit by a copyright holder. If you are found guilty of plagiarism in a court of law, you will have to pay fines and restitution to the copyright holder. Such financial penalties have been known to climb into the millions of dollars. And by the way, there may also be criminal penalties, meaning you could face a prison sentence.

**Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World**  
**Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

**Consequences of Plagiarism: Professional**

**Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

No matter what your career is, plagiarism can be grounds for dismissal. Journalists and other writers must be especially careful to avoid plagiarism, but the consequences of plagiarism can affect any professional even at the highest levels of prestige. For example, you can do a simple Internet search and find numerous stories of government officials—even presidents of countries—whose degrees were revoked by their alma maters and who had to step down from office, all because they plagiarized their doctoral theses.

Academic   Financial   Professional   Personal

Close

No matter what your career is, plagiarism can be grounds for dismissal. Journalists and other writers must be especially careful to avoid plagiarism, but the consequences of plagiarism can affect any professional even at the highest levels of prestige. For example, you can do a simple Internet search and find numerous stories of government officials—even presidents of countries—whose degrees were revoked by their alma maters and who had to step down from office, all because they plagiarized their doctoral theses.

**Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World**  
**Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

**Consequences of Plagiarism: Personal**

**Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

If you are found guilty of plagiarism and manage to recover from the academic, financial, or professional cost, there is still another consequence that may never go away: the damage done to your reputation. Once you are known as a plagiarist, people may never trust your word again.

Academic   Financial   Professional   Personal

Close

If you are found guilty of plagiarism and manage to recover from the academic, financial, or professional cost, there is still another consequence that may never go away: the damage done to your reputation. Once you are known as a plagiarist, people may never trust your word again.



**Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World**  
**Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences**

**Avoiding Plagiarism**

## Plagiarism and Its Consequences

So why do students plagiarize? Some may not know the rules or think about the legal issues. However, the most common excuse given by students is procrastination. Some students wait until the last possible moment to work on a paper or project, and then they panic and make mistakes. Nonetheless, explanations of ignorance or neglect will not protect you from the consequences. By giving credit to sources and ensuring that the vast majority of your paper is your original work, you can do much to prevent the negative consequences of plagiarism.

Close

So why do students plagiarize? Some may not know the rules or think about the legal issues. However, the most common excuse given by students is procrastination. Some students wait until the last possible moment to work on a paper or project, and then they panic and make mistakes. Nonetheless, explanations of ignorance or neglect will not protect you from the consequences. By giving credit to sources and ensuring that the vast majority of your paper is your original work, you can do much to prevent the negative consequences of plagiarism.

## Module 5: The Literary Response to the Changing World

### Topic 4 Content: Plagiarism and Its Consequences

#### Avoiding Plagiarism

## Plagiarism and Its Consequences

Below are some additional tips to help you avoid plagiarism.

- Take accurate notes and record sources.
- Include a Works Cited or bibliography page.
- Use quotation marks when quoting information word for word.
- Paraphrase in your own words, staying true to the original meaning while avoiding the original wording.
- Always cite the original source of any information or work.
- Do not copy and paste information from a website or document.
- Begin your research and rough draft early to avoid rushing to meet a deadline. Procrastination can cause unintentional plagiarism.

Close

Below are some additional tips to help you avoid plagiarism.

- Take accurate notes and record sources.
- Include a Works Cited or bibliography page.
- Use quotation marks when quoting information word for word.
- Paraphrase in your own words, staying true to the original meaning while avoiding the original wording.
- Always cite the original source of any information or work.
- Do not copy and paste information from a website or document.
- Begin your research and rough draft early to avoid rushing to meet a deadline. Procrastination can cause unintentional plagiarism.