439W –Writing Topic #2

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

 PARAPHRASING OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plagiarism

- MANY resource sites on internet for those pesky gray areas:
 - www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
 - plagiarism.dal.ca/student/examples.html

Plagiarism among today's students (and professors)

- Why worse now? Technical reasons---
- The old method: 3x5 cards. Students knew when they were plagiarizing.
- Earlier assumptions were that photocopying would increase plagiarism (however, writers were limited by their budget for photocopies).
- One <u>hypothesis</u>...The personal computer, the internet, and databases provide source text with handy *cut-and-paste* commands at your fingertips.

Other reasons?

Another query:

If plagiarism is the equivalent of stealing another's intellectual property, is it plagiarism if you have the original author's permission??

Four Steps for Avoiding Plagiarism*

- 1) "Put in quotations everything that comes directly from the text, especially when taking notes."
- 2) "Paraphrase, but be sure you are not just rearranging or replacing a few words. Instead, read over what you want to paraphrase carefully; cover up the text with your hand, or close the text so you can't see any of it (and so aren't tempted to use the text as a "guide"). Write out the idea in your own words without peeking."
- *University of Indiana Writing Tutorial Services Web Page

Four Steps for Avoiding Plagiarism*

- 3) "Check your paraphrase against the original text to be sure you have not accidentally used the same phrases or words, and that the information is accurate."
- 4) "...Although you use your own words to paraphrase, you must still acknowledge the source of the information."
- *University of Indiana Writing Tutorial Services Web Page

Creasy's Fifth Step for Avoiding Plagiarism in the Internet Age

 Never cut and paste <u>ANY</u> text into your document unless you *immediately* surround it with quotation marks and add an endnote or footnote.

 Or, first type in the quotation marks and then paste the words between them.

"Never cite sight unseen."

- Recent dissertation..."2000 years ago, the Romans, the Chinese, and the Aztecs measured heart rates during exercise... [1]."
- When professor checked Reference 1, it did not mention the Romans, the Chinese, or the Aztecs!
- Be especially careful about using information in your source A cited from (another) source B: what if that author mis-cited source B??

WHY do we include citations?

- Supports an argument with the authority of a peer-reviewed publication.
- Demonstrates to your readers (and professor) that you've done your homework researching this topic.
- Protects you against charges of plagiarism.

Citation Guidelines

- Review handout from Dr B
- One key tip: If a fact is considered <u>common knowledge</u>, you don't need to use a citation to support it. Focus on finding more specific information to support with the authority of a citation.

How do we know something is "common" knowledge?

- It's found in multiple textbooks with no citation attached.
- Information that is easy to find in general reference sources.

Examples of common knowledge (among physiology students/teachers)

Cardiac output is a function of HR and SV.

 Obesity increases the risk of developing some cancers and Type 2 diabetes.

NOT common knowledge

 Stroke volume is lower by 60% with the Kleinfelter variation of cardiomyopathy.

 Having a body weight 50% greater than so-called ideal body weight increases the risk of Type 2 diabetes 3-fold.

How are these statements different from those on preceding slides?