

Field Epidemiology Certificate Program

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the act of copying or using someone else's work or writing and presenting it as your own work.

The UNC Honor code states: "plagiarism in the form of deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise."

"Work," means work on any case study, contribution to group project, presentation (including graphics), or other material submitted for a grade.

What is the correct way to use an information source?

In class, we expect that you will use and present information from literature, websites, and various references in your work. When using information from one of these sources, it is appropriate to *paraphrase the information in your own words*, and cite the source of that information. For example:

Source: (The Red Book on Chlamydia) Lymphogranuloma venereum biovars are worldwide in distribution but particularly are prevalent in tropical and subtropical areas. Although disease occurs rarely in the United States, outbreaks of LGV have been reported in Europe, and cases have been reported in the United States in men who have sex with men. Infection often is asymptomatic in women. Perinatal transmission is rare. Lymphogranuloma venereum is infectious during active disease.

My Paper: Chlamydia biovars causing lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) are most prevalent in tropical and subtropical areas, although they can be found worldwide. In the United States, transmission has been documented among men who have sex with men, but it is more difficult to discern in women because it is often asymptomatic. (1)

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. Chlamydial Infections. In: Pickering LK, Baker CJ, Long SS, McMillan JA, eds. *Red Book: 2006 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 27th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics; 2006.

"General knowledge" in the lectures or texts does not need to be cited, but if you are referring to something that is not likely to be in many sources, then citing is desirable.

What are examples of plagiarism?

- **Paraphrasing information from a source without referencing the source.** If you had to look up the information to include it in your work, you need to cite the source. Statistics, symptoms, epidemiology, research results, and conclusions reached by researchers are all examples of information that should be cited. (Note, however, if you are a physician that treats a disease or condition every day, you would already know the symptoms and would not have to cite a source. In this case YOU are the source.)
- **Copying and pasting anything from the internet into your work without citing the source.** Just because it's on the internet doesn't mean it's "free!" There is a proper format for citing web pages as well as online articles; this format *includes the web address*, so that anyone reading your paper will be able to go to that website and see the source article.
- **Using someone else's work, "borrowing" work from a previous year's student, or otherwise using work that you did not do and turning it in as if you had done the work yourself.** This does not mean you cannot have a study partner for this course. However, any work that you turn in should be processed through your own brain, performed by your own hand, and presented in your own words.
- **Not putting quote marks around parts of sources you copy exactly.** If you copy and paste information from anywhere and put it in your paper or other project, it should be in quotation marks and accompanied by a citation. If wording from a source is used, you must put quotes around it!

But I need to look this information up. What do you expect to see in my paper?

In this course it is expected that you will need to look up clinical and other information and epidemiology on assigned diseases or topics and **synthesize information from multiple sources**, determining what the most useful information to present is, how to present it, and then drawing your own conclusions from what you have presented.