

## Statement on Plagiarism for Biochemistry I (CH 461)

### What the dictionary says...

#### *Plagiarize*

- 1) to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (another's production) without crediting the source
- 2) to commit literary theft : present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

From the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

(<http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?book=Dictionary&va=plagiarize>)

### How does this apply to this course...

The main mechanism for assessment in this class is the “problem set”. Problem sets are to be completed outside of class. In completing these problems sets you can (and indeed should) consult your lecture notes, the textbook, the scientific literature and any other source you find useful. You may also discuss the questions and your ideas about possible answers with your classmates. However, when it comes time to prepare material to be handed in, each individual is responsible for writing as an individual.

All of this is by design. In the “real world” one is often assigned tasks/project for which one is only partially prepared to answer. In order to complete these tasks successfully, one needs to be able to find, gather and assimilate information from many sources. The problem sets are designed to help you gain these skills.

Plagiarism comes into the picture when it is time to present the result of your investigation. If you have gathered ideas from another person (whether in person or via their writings) and have used it in preparing your answer, this work it must be cited. It is that simple!

Notice, I do not talk solely about using a quotation from another persons work, rather I use the broad and general term “ideas”. Direct quotations are rarely used in scientific writing but scientific writing is chock full of citations to previous literature. Take a look at any scientific paper for an example.

Citing ones sources involves two steps. The first is keeping track of where you gather various pieces of information from as you go about the research process. The second involves adding this information to your written (or oral) report. Many presentations on citing sources go to great lengths about the format of these citations. Indeed, many journals and professional associations specify a precise format for citations in their journals. The exact form for citations in this class is not important to me. However the guiding principle behind all of these different formats is of

critical importance; a proper citation should contain enough information so that a reader can (without difficulty) locate the original material.

If you would like specific guidance on formatting references take a look at the “Instructions for Authors” for the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* (“JBC”) at:

<http://www.jbc.org/misc/ifora.shtml> (scroll down to the section titled “References”) or *Biochemistry* at

[https://paragon.acs.org/paragon/ShowDocServlet?contentId=paragon/menu\\_content/authorchecklist/bi\\_authguide.pdf](https://paragon.acs.org/paragon/ShowDocServlet?contentId=paragon/menu_content/authorchecklist/bi_authguide.pdf) (again look for the section titled “References”).

A more extensive and general exposition regarding plagiarism can be found at:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>. I highly recommend you spend some time reading this material.

### **Penalties for plagiarism...**

Ideas are the basic product of science and plagiarism is theft of ideas... simple as that. I take plagiarism and other forms of academic/scientific misconduct seriously.

The first incident of plagiarism in this class will result in the student earning a grade of “F” on the assignment and we (the student and instructor) will have a long talk about academic and personal honesty. A second incident of plagiarism by the same student will result in their earning grade of “F” for the entire course. I also reserve the right to use the College’s formal mechanisms for dealing with academic dishonesty as outlined in the College catalog (see: [http://www.bridgew.edu/Handbook/academic\\_misconduct.pdf](http://www.bridgew.edu/Handbook/academic_misconduct.pdf)) if I deem necessary.

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You have received two copies of this statement. One of these is for your records. The other is to be signed (below) and returned to the instructor by the third class meeting at the very latest.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand both this document and the  
(Please print your name here.)

College’s policy on academic misconduct as stated in the College catalog.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date