Being smart about Plagiarism
PLAGIARISM

What is it?
Why is it important to me?
How can I avoid it?

References for more information.

Adapted with permission for use at Front Range Community College by Corky Walters from “Avoiding Plagiarism” by Joyce A. Brannan, Technical Services Librarian, Julia Tutwiler Library, University of West Alabama, Livingston, Alabama. library.uwa.edu/Help/Plagiarism.ppt
Alive or dead, it does not matter. If it is not your own idea, you must cite your source!!
If you translate or paraphrase something, you must still give a citation.

Falan Dafa Clearwisdom.net, English version of Minghui.org,
You may have been told that if you put something into your own words, you need not cite. This is incorrect. The material is still someone else’s idea and requires acknowledgement.

Paraphrasing requires a citation.
Do you know how to paraphrase correctly?
Paraphrasing is more than simply rewording the original material!

• It must be almost entirely in your own words. You must use new synonyms and new phrases. Only technical terms should be repeated.

• Any exact words that are retained should have quotation marks around them.

• The sentence structure should be yours, not the same as in the source.

• Do not add ideas, interpretations, explanations, or assessments.
Quotations should be used sparingly. They must be exact, word-for-word as they appear in the original document.

Quotes require a citation in addition to the use of quote marks.

Every quoted word needs to be cited. Even a short phrase or single word must be quoted and cited if it is unusual.

“pretzeled logic”

“clandestine coup”

The lectures by your professors are protected by copyright laws. If you use their ideas, you must give them credit. To not do so is plagiarism!

“Plagiarism and Cheating,” skills4study, Palgrave, Macmillan.
Sometime in elementary school you may have been told that if your information comes from an encyclopedia or a dictionary it is common knowledge and does not need to be cited. That is a MAYBE. What is common knowledge?

The earth is round!
Common knowledge consists of:

• Information that is **easily observed** – the sky is blue, but not a detailed explanation of why the sky is blue.

• **Commonly reported facts** – George Washington was the first president of the United States, but not the information that historians have to say about Washington.

• **Common sayings** such as proverbs – “Waste not, want not;” “Look before you leap.”

Common knowledge does not need to be cited, but be sure that what you are using really is common knowledge. When in doubt ask either your instructor or a librarian.
WHEN IN DOUBT, USE A CITATION!!
APA, The American Psychological Association. This style is commonly used in the fields of education, psychology, and sociology.

MLA, The Modern Language Association. This style is commonly used in the fields of literature.

Helps are also available online from such sources as the Purdue Online Writing Lab at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/

Click there on the preferred style.