

ON GOOD ACADEMIC PRACTICE / PLAGARISM

(Pro)seminar papers are there to show you and those who teach you what kind of progress you have made. The research you have done will turn up material that is of interest to those who read your (pro)seminar paper. For these reasons, full documentation is essential.

Failure to offer full documentation constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism results in:

- a) the lowest grade (1), and
- b) you being barred from writing another paper in the context of the same course (i.e. you have to attend a different course in a later semester).

In repeated cases, you are exmatriculated for one or several semesters. For the University of Basel's official rules on plagiarism, please consult

<https://www.philhist.unibas.ch/de/studium/studierende/plagiat/>.

1. What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is copying or paraphrasing texts that are not your own and using other people's ideas without giving due credit (i.e. giving the impression that they are your own). Using material for which you have already received credit points and failing to acknowledge assistance you have received also constitutes plagiarism.

2. How to Avoid Plagiarism

Appropriately document your source whenever you use somebody else's apt phrase, text or idea. Make sure that you do this fully and consistently throughout your (pro)seminar paper. When taking notes, carefully distinguish between your own thoughts, and material you have found or taken from somewhere else. Always take down the exact source. Especially if you quote directly from a source, you need to indicate the exact source including page numbers. In your paper, indicate the sources of ideas that are not your own both in the body text (with in-text citations) and in the reference list at the end. Pay attention that literature and linguistics follow different traditions regarding the citing of your sources, so make sure you use the correct style sheet depending on whether you write your (pro)seminar paper in literature or linguistics (see Study Plans and Manuals).

In addition, include an "Acknowledgements" section at the beginning of your paper. If you use material and ideas that you have used before, indicate this in here. If you are actually quoting yourself, quote yourself explicitly according to the respective style sheet. If you fail to acknowledge that you use material of your own that you have used before, this constitutes self-plagiarism and is faced with the same strict consequences as plagiarising someone else's material (see above).

If you have received assistance (especially assistance you may have asked for, e.g., with your English), give a fair account of this in your "Acknowledgements" section. If you are in doubt about how to acknowledge the help you have received, choose the more explicit version. Those who have helped you will appreciate your generosity.



University
of Basel

Department of
Languages and Literatures

3. The Declaration Concerning Plagiarism

You must add and sign the following declaration at the very end of your paper:

Hiermit bestätige ich, dass ich vertraut bin mit den von der Philosophisch-Historischen Fakultät der Universität Basel herausgegebenen „Regeln zur Sicherung wissenschaftlicher Redlichkeit“ und diese gewissenhaft befolgt habe.

Place/Date/Signature

This declaration as well as further explanations concerning plagiarism are available at <https://www.philhist.unibas.ch/de/studium/studierende/plagiat/>. Please note that your paper will be checked for plagiarism electronically. Therefore, you must send an electronic version of your paper to both your instructor as well as our secretary (alex.van-lierde@unibas.ch).

In the following you find a few examples of what constitutes plagiarism, and how you can avoid it by correctly citing the source in question.

4. Examples

Original Passage

The poem requires our close attention and, if possible, our unriddling because it is a powerful symbolic enactment of the psychological dilemma facing the intelligent and aware woman, and particularly the woman artist, in patriarchal America.

The original passage is taken from p. 124 of Albert Gelpi's essay "Emily Dickinson and the deerslayer: The dilemma of the woman poet in America", found in Sarah Gilbert and Susan Gubar's *Shakespeare's Sisters: Feminist Essays on Women Poets* (1979).

Student version 1

The poem is a powerful symbolic enactment of the psychological dilemma facing the intelligent and aware woman, and particularly the woman artist, in patriarchal America.

→ *Comment:* Obvious plagiarism. Word-for-word repetition without acknowledgment.

Student version 2

The poem requires our close attention and, if possible, our unriddling because it is a powerful symbolic enactment of the psychological dilemma facing the intelligent and aware woman, and particularly the woman artist, in patriarchal America (Gelpi 1979: 124).

→ *Comment:* Still plagiarism. Indicating the source from which you have taken the idea is not enough. The language is still the original author's, and only quotation marks around the whole passage plus the reference in brackets would be correct (see "Student version 4" below).



University
of Basel

Department of
Languages and Literatures

Student version 3

Emily Dickinson's poem enacts the psychological dilemma facing the intelligent female writer in patriarchal America.

- *Comment:* Still plagiarism. A few words have been changed or omitted, but the student is not using his or her own language and does not cite the source.

Student Version 4

"The poem requires our close attention and, if possible, our unriddling because it is a powerful symbolic enactment of the psychological dilemma facing the intelligent and aware woman, and particularly the woman artist, in patriarchal America" (Gelpi 1979: 124).

- *Comment:* Correct. The quotation marks acknowledge the words of the original writer and the information in brackets tells us the source of the quote. (The complete bibliographical reference must be given in the list of works cited at the end of your paper).

Student version 5

Emily Dickinson's poem must be read in a figurative way. According to Albert Gelpi, the poet uses symbolic language in order to metaphorically express "the psychological dilemma" female artists like herself experienced in nineteenth-century "patriarchal America" when the writing of poetry was regarded as a male prerogative (Gelpi 1979: 124).

- *Comment:* Correct. The student uses his or her own language in order to paraphrase Gelpi's opinion, puts the original words in quotation marks, and indicates the source. S/he uses Gelpi's opinion for the development of his or her own argument. (The complete bibliographical reference must be given in the list of works cited at the end of your paper).

Student version 6

Emily Dickinson's poem must be read in a figurative way. The poet uses symbolic language in order to express the quandary of female artists such as experienced in the society of nineteenth-century America, which regarded the writing of poetry as a male prerogative (Gelpi 1979: 124).

- *Comment:* Correct. The student uses his or her own language in order to paraphrase Gelpi's statement and indicates the source. Gelpi's opinion is used to develop the student's own argument. (The complete bibliographical reference must be given in the list of works cited at the end of your paper).