Avoiding plagiarism

Orientation lecture
Strategies for avoiding plagiarism

1. **Institutional level:**
   Know about the university policies on plagiarism.

2. **Faculty / discipline / course / unit of study level:**
   Find out what is expected for your references.

3. **Individual level:**
   Develop the skills and knowledge you need.
1. University policy

Check with your neighbour: 1 minute

› What is ‘academic honesty’?
› What is ‘plagiarism’?
› What is ‘legitimate cooperation’?
1. University policy

Academic honesty

Acting honestly, ethically and with integrity in your dealings with the university, its employees, members of the public & other students
Plagiarism

Presenting another person’s work as one’s own work by presenting, copying or reproducing it without acknowledgement of the source
Legitimate cooperation

Any constructive educational and intellectual practice that aims to facilitate optimal learning outcomes through interaction between students

• Presenting joint work
• Informal study or discussion groups
Check with your neighbour: 3 minutes

How serious are the actions on the front of your hand-out?

Not very serious
Could be serious
Very serious
Check with your neighbour: 1 minute

Which uses of sources are okay, on page 2 of your hand-out?
Types of academic dishonesty

Plagiarism

- **Negligent** (ignorantly, recklessly or carelessly)
  - e.g. inaccurate referencing

- **Dishonest** (knowingly)
  - e.g. submitting an essay from the web under your own name

Other academic dishonesty:
- e.g. cheating in exams
- falsifying data
The responsibility of the student

Students hand in a compliance statement with every assignment.
What happens?

For *negligent* plagiarism, the first time:

› Discussion with academics in your faculty
› Record on your file with the University Registrar
› Resubmit the work, or
› Fail the unit of study
For negligent plagiarism, the second time...

... or *dishonest* plagiarism, the first time:

› It is treated as student misconduct, which may be investigated leading to being suspended or expelled from the university.
2. Expectations for your references

There are several ways of referencing, e.g.:

- Footnotes, with the details at the bottom of the page
- Endnotes, with a numbered list of references at the end
- In-text references, with an alphabetical reference list at the end
- Bibliography, sources not directly used, no references in the text

There are also different conventions for the format and order of the information in the references.
2. Expectations for your references

How to find out what is expected of your references:

• Your faculty, school, department or discipline may provide a guide. Ask about this if you don't get one.

• Your unit of study outline should tell you what type of referencing to use in your assignments. Ask about this if it doesn't.

• Your lecturer or tutor may give you instructions. Ask.

• You can find detailed style guides for the main referencing conventions (e.g. Harvard, APA) both online and in the library.
Quoting and paraphrasing

Check with your neighbour: 1 minute

• What is the difference between quoting and paraphrasing?
• When should you quote?
• When should you paraphrase?
3. Develop your skills and knowledge

Format for quotations

Short quotation less than 3 lines:

(Example from Law using the Oxford system of footnote references.)

Enright distinguishes between the two terms by stating that “ratio decidendi is a principle of law which decides a case, while obiter dictum is a proposition of law stated in the case but not essential to the case.” ¹ Obviously, this means …

Format for quotations

Short quotation less than 3 lines:

Hoggett and Edwards (1993) define depletion or amortisation as “the periodic allocation of the cost of natural resources to the units removed” (Hoggett and Edwards, 1993, p. 524). It can be calculated by …

(Example from Accounting with Harvard system of in-text references.)

(Full details of the source at the end of the paper in a reference list.)
3. Develop your skills and knowledge

Format for quotations

Long quotation more than 3 lines:

Kirby J, in praise of the common law, says:

We should not be ashamed of this extraordinary creation. It is a brilliant and very English invention adapted in Australia to our needs. It is pragmatic and adaptive. It still governs about a quarter of humanity long after the British empire has faded into history. Truly, this is a mighty and lasting heritage. 8

How then does judicial creativity contribute to …

8. Justice Michael Kirby, Beyond the Judicial Fairy Tales Quadrant Jan-Feb 2004 at 28
3. Develop your skills and knowledge

Paraphrasing

Original source material:

I use the term migration law to refer to the domestic law or laws which regulate the entry and stay of foreigners.

*Catherine Dauvergne, ‘Sovereignty, Migration and the Rule of Law in Global Times’ on page 590 in the Modern Law Review, 2004 Volume 67(4).*
3. Develop your skills and knowledge

Paraphrasing

Check with your neighbour: 2 minutes

• Which is the best paraphrase of the source material (page 3)?
• Why?
I use the term migration law to refer to the domestic law or laws which regulate the entry and stay of foreigners.

1. Migration law (Dauvergne 2004:590) means the laws of a country which govern entry and residence.

2. The laws of a country which control entry and stay of foreigners are known as migration law (Dauvergne 2004:590).

3. Dauvergne uses the term migration law to mean the laws of a country which govern migration entry and residency (Dauvergne 2004:590).
3. Develop your skills and knowledge

To build your skills further:

• Pay attention to the referencing in your readings.
• Attend a Learning Centre workshop (last page).
• Use online resources such as the Write Site.
For extra protection:

› Keep copies of your drafts and notes, to show the development of your ideas if necessary.
› Keep records of your group work contributions, such as e-mails and notes of discussions.
› Acknowledge help you have received. For example: I would like to thank Kris Surin for giving me feedback on my grammar on my first draft.
Sources for material in this lecture:

University of Sydney Policies and Guidelines

Books and Journal Articles


Kirby, M. ‘Beyond the Judicial Fairy Tales’, *Quadrant*, Jan-Feb 2004.