

## Plagiarism Quiz (page 1 of 3)

By Dr. Karen Petit

The following paragraph was written on August 25, 2017. Some of the questions in this quiz illustrate correct and incorrect use of words and ideas from “Stealing from Themselves.”

### Stealing from Themselves

By Dr. Karen Petit

Thieves hurt other people, as well as themselves. If a thief steals a tomato from a neighbor’s yard, the thief will only be eating someone else’s food, rather than creatively choosing seeds, growing new plants, caring for tomatoes as they grow, and enjoying the sight and taste of a product made through one’s own hard work. When a thief steals and eats a neighbor’s tomato, the thief’s mouth will not be smiling, but will instead be frowning with guilt. The tomato will not taste as good as the one eaten by the honest gardener, who will be smiling joyfully over the beauty and taste of his/her completed product. Because thieves do not have honesty and skills, they will think of themselves in very negative ways. Thief Smith, for example, said: “I’m stealing food from my hungry neighbors, so I’m a really bad person. I also can’t grow plants. I’m not creative. I’m not hard working.” Even brand-new gardeners who do not yet have a lot of skills will think of themselves in a much more positive way. New gardeners will also quickly become skillful through research, practice, and experience. The creation of even one great tomato will make a new gardener very happy and proud of him/herself. More honesty and less theft will result in increased positive experiences for everyone.

1. What is plagiarism?
  - a. Plagiarism means to make people think you wrote one or more sentences when someone else actually wrote the sentence(s) for you.
  - b. Plagiarism means to put only your name—and to delete the author’s name—from an essay.
  - c. If you buy a paper from online, you are paying money for the paper, so it’s not plagiarism.
  - d. If a tutor writes a paper for you, tutors are being paid to help other people with their writing, so this is not plagiarism.
  - e. a, b, c, and d are all examples of plagiarism.
  
2. A person cut and pasted a paragraph from an internet article. The person then changed about a third of the words. The person also kept the same paragraph and sentence structures. No source information was included. Is this plagiarism?
  - a. Yes, it’s plagiarism. Stealing a structure is still theft.
  - b. No, it’s not plagiarism because only some of the words were used.
  - c. If a new person has changed some of the words in a very creative fashion, then the paragraph has been written by this new person, so it’s not plagiarism.
  - d. If some of the words are changed, whether the changes are creative or not, then the new version is okay. It’s not plagiarism.
  - e. The internet’s information and words are there for everyone to use, so copying things from the internet is not plagiarism.

**Plagiarism Quiz (Page 2 of 3)**

**By Dr. Karen Petit**

3. A person should not plagiarize because
  - a. People need to practice writing, so they can improve their writing skills.
  - b. People who plagiarize will be like the thieves described in “Stealing from Themselves.” They will feel guilty about their activities, resulting in negative thoughts about themselves (Petit 1).
  - c. People who plagiarize might fail a course, be expelled from college, and/or be fired from a job.
  - d. Plagiarism is theft.
  - e. All of the above (a, b, c, and d) are correct.
4. To avoid plagiarism, source information is needed for:
  - a. Four or more words borrowed from a source
  - b. A paraphrase or a summary
  - c. A picture
  - d. Borrowed words, paraphrases, and summaries
  - e. Borrowed words, paraphrases, summaries, and pictures
5. Which of these is plagiarism?
  - a. Thieves hurt other people and themselves. If a thief steals a tomato from someone’s yard, the thief will only be eating someone else’s food, rather than creatively choosing seeds, growing plants, caring for tomatoes as they grow, and enjoying the sight and taste of a product made with hard work.
  - b. Thieves hurt other people and themselves. If a thief steals a tomato from someone’s yard, the thief will only be eating someone else’s food, rather than creatively choosing seeds, growing plants, caring for tomatoes as they grow, and enjoying the sight and taste of a product made with hard work (Petit 1).
  - c. Thieves hurt other people, as well as themselves. They might commit plagiarism. For example, if a thief steals a tomato from a neighbor’s yard, the thief will only be eating someone else’s food, rather than creatively choosing seeds, growing new plants, caring for tomatoes as they grow, and enjoying the sight and taste of a product made through one’s own hard work.
  - d. Thieves hurt other people, as well as themselves. They might commit plagiarism. For example, if a thief steals a tomato from a neighbor’s yard, the thief will only be eating someone else’s food, rather than creatively choosing seeds, growing new plants, caring for tomatoes as they grow, and enjoying the sight and taste of a product made through one’s own hard work (Petit 1).
  - e. All of the above examples are plagiarism.
6. Which of these statements is correct?
  - a. Only quotations should be documented in speeches.
  - b. Information, quotations, and pictures all need documentation in speeches.
  - c. In speeches, information and quotations don’t need citations or Works Cited entries because a speaker is different from a writer.
  - d. Telling listeners about sources can be distracting, so source information is not needed in speeches.
  - e. Pictures used in a speech do not need documentation.

**Plagiarism Quiz (page 3 of 3)**

**By Dr. Karen Petit**

7. Which one of these statements is correct about whether or not a picture needs to be cited?
- If a picture is cut and pasted from the internet, it does not need to be cited.
  - If a picture is cut and pasted from the internet, the internet can be listed as the source.
  - If a picture is cropped or changed in some other way, so less than half of the original image is used, then the image does not need to be cited.
  - If a picture from the internet is put into a larger picture, so it becomes a part of another image, then it does not have to be cited.
  - A picture from the internet or other source always needs citation information, even if the image is cropped or changed.
8. A person included some information found in a Google search in a research paper. Which of the following answers is correct?
- No citations or works cited entries are needed because anything on the internet is common knowledge.
  - One or more in-text citations and a works cited entry must refer to **www.google.com** as the website source for the information.
  - A works cited entry must refer to **www.google.com** as the website source for the information.
  - One or more in-text citations and a works cited entry must refer to the source that wrote the descriptive information for the Google search box: **www.ccri.edu/writingcenter**.
  - A works cited entry must refer to the source that wrote the descriptive information for the Google search box: **www.ccri.edu/writingcenter**.
9. A student wrote a paper for a Human Services course. This student then turned in the same paper for an English Department course. Is this plagiarism?
- No, it's not plagiarism, unless the professor notices it.
  - No, it's not plagiarism because the student actually did write the paper (the same paper) for both classes.
  - Yes, it's self-plagiarism, which is still plagiarism.
  - No, it's not plagiarism because the student was just being smart by saving some time for other learning experiences.
  - No, it's not plagiarism because the student thinks it's not plagiarism.
10. A person copies an entire paragraph from an online source. Which of these is plagiarism?
- The person does not list the source's information because the paragraph was on the internet and hence is common knowledge.
  - The person does not use quotation marks, but instead lists the source's information in a citation at the end of the paragraph.
  - The person lists the source's information in a citation at the end of a paragraph, but quotation marks are not used because several of the words were changed.
  - The person decides to copy and use only a half of a sentence. No citation information and no quotation marks are used.
  - All of the above (a, b, c, and d) are plagiarism.

The Writing Center – Community College of Rhode Island  
<https://www.ccri.edu/writingcenter/>  
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