

Avoid Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of cheating.

Typing in your question to Google and copy/pasting or retyping that response into your assignment...that's plagiarism!

Copying off your friend/classmate is also plagiarism!

How can I tell? Many reasons:

1. I know it didn't come from the brain of a 7th grader. Just by the use of semicolons, colons, commas, and hyphens.
2. The response uses words I know you don't know how to use.
3. Your response brings up something we haven't even talked about in class or in any assigned reading.
4. When your answer is dead wrong (because Google isn't always right) and many other people have the same really weird, wrong answer.
5. I use a program called draftback. It shows me in real time you working on your assignment. I can easily detect when large or small chunks of text are pasted into your document. I can also use the edit history.

So...what can you do to avoid doing these things?

1. Read what you're supposed to read to get your answer (shortcuts never work)
2. Use my guidelines for writing a complete sentence (that way you are using your own words).
3. Use your own words. Yes, again, use your own words. Pretend you are explaining your answer to a friend.
4. If you need help then ask! There is no shame in asking for help. Even as a teacher, I also have to ask people for help. It can be scary, I know...but I actually love when students ask me for help. That's my job people!