Advancing Your Writing (and Avoiding Plagiarism)

Welcome and join us
- Advancing in a community of scholars
  - Practice scholars
  - Research scholars
- Communication through written word
- Commitment to building on others’ work, being an active part of change
  - Not just summarizing others’ work

Community of Scholars
- Acknowledge the importance of intellectual property
- Responsibility to recognize the (hard) work of other scholars
  - Recognize = give credit for
- Responsibility to work hard at what you create & share
  - Even with your instructors & peers

Working Hard (& Working Smart)
- “Writing is easy. All you do is sit down at a typewriter, open a vein, and bleed”
  - Red Smith (sports columnist in 1940s)
  - Ernest Hemingway
- Recognize that writing is hard
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Working Hard (& Working Smart) (2)
- Take the time to work at your writing, allow time for multiple drafts
- “The first draft of anything is shit” - Ernest Hemingway
- Allow time for the ‘marinating process’

Working Hard (& Working Smart) (3)
- Take the time to allow yourself to develop a product that contributes your gifts and your insights

Key Writing Challenges
- Organization - How well-thought-out is your argument?
- Reading practices - How are you reading relevant texts?
- Language - How effectively do you articulate your thoughts?

Source: Deborah Knott, 2013

One Consequence of Not Taking the Time = Plagiarism

Classes Outside the Main Stream.
What is Plagiarism?

- Plagiarism means using the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own, and without giving proper credit to the sources you have used*
- Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct runs directly contrary to the values of a community of scholars

* SFU policy S10.01 (Code of Academic Integrity & Good Conduct)

Acts of Plagiarism

- Submitting or presenting the work of another person, including artistic imagery, as that of the student without full and appropriate accreditation
- Copying all or part of an essay or other assignment from an author or other person, including a tutor or student mentor, and presenting the material as the student's original work
- Failing to acknowledge the phrases, sentences or ideas of the author of published and unpublished material that is incorporated into an essay or other assignment

How Does Plagiarism Happen?

- Ignorance about the rules of plagiarism  →  Not fully embracing your job/role
- Sloppy note-taking  →  Not fully embracing your job/role

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- Sloppy note-taking → Not fully embracing your job/role
- Explicit decision to engage in plagiarism → Not allowing time for writing process

Solutions (1): Take the Time

- Start writing early, start “before you are ready”
- Write regularly, even daily
- Talk to others about what you are working on
- Share drafts with others
- In group work, allow for time to understand the process and product of other group members

Solutions (2): Ask For Help

- Be sure to understand all aspects of the plagiarism tutorial and SFU policy S10.01 (Code of Academic Integrity & Good Conduct)
- Use the library’s Research Commons
- Meet with your instructors, your advisor, other faculty members
- Set up writing groups with other students

Solutions (3): Engage in Helpful Writing Practices

- Always use quotation marks to indicate direct quotations in your notes
- Put away others’ work while you are writing rather than having it open directly beside you
- Move from a descriptive approach to an evaluative approach
Solutions (4): Fully Embrace Your Membership in a Community of Scholars

- Commit to building on others’ work, being an active part of change
- Own that you have a unique contribution
- Embrace writing as a process not simply an outcome -- “I’m just writing to find out what I think”
- Get comfortable with working at or near your edge – this is where the magic happens

Write To Share & Improve Your Work

- Write to remember
- Write to understand
- Write to test your thinking

Booth, Colomb, Williams, 2008

- Writing and sharing your ideas allows you to gain entry into the academic conversation
- Being in the conversation allows you to remain creative, to keep your ideas dynamic

Academic Voices, 2015

Resources

- SFU library research commons
- www.academicladder.com
- www.academiccoachingandwriting.org