AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is failing to credit a source for ideas or words.

Northwestern takes plagiarism seriously. All offenses are reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

According to the Student Handbook: “Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s work as one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

A) The unacknowledged use of words, ideas, or data from any published or unpublished source, including Internet sources and other students. Any ideas or information a student obtains from a source, whether or not directly quoted, must be appropriately acknowledged.

B) Improperly quoting a source. Any phrase directly taken from a source must be placed in quotation marks and cited. Any failure to indicate a direct quotation is considered plagiarism, even if the source is cited. Any paraphrase (restatement of an idea in one’s own words) must be cited.”

Sometimes students aren’t sure what plagiarism is and isn’t. Reading through the following example page should help you know when to cite a source and when also to use quotation marks.