

Plagiarism

What It Is and How to Avoid It in Science Labs

Plagiarism is using another's work or ideas as your own. It is a type of cheating. You should never copy the words of a published work in your lab report. It should go without saying that copying from another student is also plagiarism.

Part of writing a lab report is thinking about what you've read and finding a way to present the information to suit the assignment. Lab assignments help you learn about the research process, how to do basic lab procedures, and apply the concepts you have learned in class to analyzing and writing about the results of your lab in an original way.

You will be expected to use these kinds of skills in many classes, and possibly also in your job.

The rules about plagiarism may be different at VCC than at other schools that you have attended. VCC takes plagiarism very seriously. The student conduct policy says that students who plagiarize will receive a grade of zero on the assignment the first time and be expelled from the college for a second infraction.

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of what plagiarism is, and to avoid doing it.

This sheet will help you understand what plagiarism is and how you can write a lab report without plagiarizing.

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas as your own, without giving credit for the source of information. There are several different types of plagiarism. Some are more obvious than others. Some examples are shown on the next page.