

QUOTING, PARAPHRASING, AND PLAGIARISM

In Australia the Copyright Act automatically gives creators of original 'works' the exclusive right to reproduce, publish, communicate, and adapt their material; and to control how it is used by others. 'Works' are material such as: novels; essays; poems; lyrics; newspaper and journal articles; dramatic scripts; musical scores and recordings; choreographic notation; artistic material (including diagrams, maps, and photographs); computer software; films (including image and sound) on whatever format; etc.

As a student you will frequently refer to copyright works. You are permitted to quote and paraphrase 'reasonable portions' of such material if you are doing it for the purposes of 'fair dealing for criticism or review', or 'fair dealing for research or study'.

Definition of a 'reasonable portion' of material to copy

What is 'fair dealing'?

Quoting

Quotations from other people's work that you use in your own must always be acknowledged and referenced in an appropriate style.

<http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au/guides/cite.html>

Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing is the use of ideas or information learned from the work of others, but expressed in your own words. Ideas and information are not in themselves protected by copyright, but copyright does protect the manner in which they are presented.

As a member of the University, good academic practice demands that you respect the work of other people, and that you always reference any material that you use from such sources.

<http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au/guides/cite.html>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism means using another person's work and presenting it as your own. This is unacceptable academically and may ultimately lead to exclusion from the University. The site below gives excellent guidance on what plagiarism is, and how to avoid it. It also offers extensive advice on the uses of quotation and paraphrase.

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/plag.html>

For more information on this or other copyright matters, please contact the Copyright Coordinator on 9360.7491 or at k.makowiecka@murdoch.edu.au