

# Plagiarism Exercise

Methods of Scientific Working (3502-440)

Winter Term 2024/2025 - **Version: October 15, 2024**

## 1 Guidelines for avoiding plagiarism

- **Use your own words and ideas.** Practice is essential to learning. Each time you choose your words, order your thoughts, and convey your ideas, you can improve your writing.
- **Give credit for copied, adapted, or paraphrased material.** If you copy and use another's exact words, you must use quotation marks and cite the source. If you adapt a chart or paraphrase a sentence, you must still cite your source. Paraphrasing is restating the author's ideas, information, and meaning in your own words (see examples).
- **Avoid using others work with minor "cosmetic" changes.** Examples: using "less" for "fewer," reversing the order of a sentence, changing terms in a computer code, or altering a spreadsheet layout. If the work is essentially the same as your source, give credit.
- **There are no "freebies."** Always cite words, information and ideas that you use if they are new to you (learned in your research). No matter where you find it – even in on the Internet or in an encyclopedia – you cite it!
- **Beware of "common knowledge."** You may not have to cite "common knowledge," but the fact must really be commonly known. That George Orwell was the author of the anti-totalitarian allegory Animal Farm is common knowledge; that Orwell died at age 46 in 1951 is not.
- **When in doubt, cite.** Better to be safe than not give credit when you should!

## 2 A quiz

This quiz was taken from the "Avoiding Plagiarism" sheet, UC Davis (<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>)

The original quote:

[A totalitarian] society ... can never permit either the truthful recording of facts, or the emotional sincerity, that literary creation demands. ... Totalitarianism demands ... the continuous alteration of the past, and in the long run ... a disbelief in the very existence of objective truth.'

Find out, which ones can be considered to be plagiarates, and why?

### Version A:

A totalitarian society can never permit the truthful recording of facts; it demands the continuous alteration of the past, and a disbelief in the very existence of objective truth.

### Version B:

Orwell believed that totalitarian societies must suppress literature and free expression because they cannot survive the truth, and thus they claim it does not exist. (Bowker) pp. 336-337

### Version C:

A totalitarian society can't be open-minded or allow the truthful recording of facts, but instead demands the constant changing of the past and a distrust of the very existence of objective truth. (Orwell)

### Version D:

In his biography of George Orwell, Gordon Bowker discusses the themes of 1984, quoting a 1946 essay by Orwell: "Totalitarianism demands ... the continuous alteration of the past, and in the long run ... a disbelief in the very existence of objective truth." (Bowker p. 337, quoting Orwell, 1946)