

Plagiarism Dos and Don'ts

DO follow these rules and you may find buried treasure!

- Make a bibliography at the end of your report that says where your information was found.
- Create artwork that is truly yours and not copied.
- Use quotation marks to mark quotes.
- Say where you got information.
- Document web sites where you found ideas.
- Write down where a picture, illustration, or graph in your report came from.
- Reword information from an encyclopedia or web site.
- Write your own stories with your own ideas.
- Take information from the Internet and summarize it in your own words.
- Keep track of all magazines, newspapers, web sites, songs, films, and books you use in a school project.
- Give credit to authors and artists whose work you used.
- Use ideas from your own brain.
- Prevent others from plagiarizing your work.

DO NOT DO the following, or you'll walk the plank!

- Copy a poem that is not yours and pretend that it is.
- Put someone else's ideas in your story and say you made them up.
- Use people's words and speeches but not quote them.
- Print a picture off the Internet for a report but not say where you got it.
- Copy word-for-word from an encyclopedia and pretend the words came from you.
- Cheat the real author out of credit for their work.
- Let others believe that you created original artwork that you really just traced or copied.
- Steal another person's ideas to get a better grade on a school report.
- Cut and paste ideas from a web site into your report without saying they came from a web site.
- Write a play and take dialogue from another playwright's work.
- Retype a friend's report and hand it in as your own.
- Take a sibling's old book report, add a few new sentences, and turn it in as yours.