

Date:
To: Judicial Affairs Committee
From: *Your name*
Re: Plagiarism investigation of Lucinda

Question: Did Lucinda violate the SJSU plagiarism policy?

Brief Answer: Yes. Lucinda did violate the SJSU plagiarism policy.

The SJSU Plagiarism policy states: “Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's words, sentences, or ideas and passing them off as your own without giving proper credit to the original source. Cutting and pasting is so easy that many people plagiarize without meaning to.”

Description of the Facts: Lucinda found an article on a website that fit the topic she was assigned in one of her courses. She paraphrased the main ideas in the article, put her name on the paper and turned it in with no quotation marks or footnotes showing it was someone else’s idea.

1. Did Lucinda use someone else’s words, sentences or ideas?

Yes. Lucinda did not use the exact words or sentences of the original source. However, she did use the ideas of the original source.

2. Did Lucinda pass off someone else’s work as her own?

Yes. Lucinda put her name on the paper and turned it in with no quotation marks or footnotes. This is evidence that she intended the instructor to think it was Lucinda’s work.

3. Did Lucinda give proper credit to the original source?

No. Lucinda did not include quotations indicating that she was quoting someone else’s work. However, since she did not use exact words, quotation marks were not required. She did paraphrase the ideas from another source and failed to use footnotes to indicate that the ideas were not her own.

Conclusion: Since Lucinda's case meets all three criteria for plagiarism stated in the SJSU policy on plagiarism, Lucinda is guilty of plagiarizing in this case.