

What is plagiarism? – Transcript

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Chris: I think plagiarism is actually quite complex. Certainly, the way that Brookes and most universities actually define it. There are so many aspects to it.

So, the easiest form of plagiarism to explain is obviously taking somebody else's work and passing it off as your own.

But I think most students don't do that. If they do plagiarise, it tends to be accidental. So they're either, when they make notes or when they use their highlighted work, not paraphrasing properly, or they're not putting things in quotation marks when they should, or they're simply not acknowledging the source.

But then there are all kinds of other things, you know. You can self-plagiarise, so you can't keep producing the same piece of work from one assignment to another, which students often find quite difficult.

There are issues around collaboration, when you're working with other people. If you all say the same thing, then you've got collusion in there. So it can be quite complicated.

I think for most students it's accidental. They don't mean to do it, it's just they're not paraphrasing, they're not analysing and thinking through what they're doing because if you stop and do that you're more likely to paraphrase properly.