Academic Integrity at TRU: What Does it Mean?
The Policy:

Do you know what it says?

Thompson Rivers University

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

POLICY

Thompson Rivers University (TRU) students are required to comply with the standards of academic integrity set out in this policy.

It is the responsibility of TRU employees to take reasonable steps to prevent and to detect acts of academic dishonesty. It is an instructor’s responsibility to confront a student when such an act is suspected and to take appropriate action if academic dishonesty, in the opinion of the instructor, has occurred.

Members of the TRU community, including students, engaged in research or scholarship, are also required to comply with the University’s policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarship ED 15-2.

REGULATIONS
Workshop Overview

• Is this even that big a deal?
• Forms of academic dishonesty
• Case #1: Paraphrasing
• Case #2: Quoting and citing
• Case #3: Taking accurate notes
• Case #4: Doing your own work
• Additional resources
Yes, it’s a big deal...

• Lots of people find out: your Instructor, the Department Chair, the Dean of the Faculty, and finally the Academic Integrity Committee.

• There is a penalty; you may get a reduced grade, fail the assignment, or fail the course.

• A written reprimand is sent and recorded in the Academic Integrity Database as a 1st offence – if it is indeed a 1st offence.

• If a student is found to be a repeat offender, they will automatically receive a failing grade for the course. The Academic Integrity Committee may recommend to the President that the student be suspended from TRU.
Forms of Academic Dishonesty:

- Cheating
- Academic Misconduct
- Fabrication
- Plagiarism
Case #1: Paraphrasing
“Sometimes essay writing can feel like a bit of a battle. Fighting your way through textbooks, journals and websites trying to build a convincing argument isn’t easy – and, frankly, there are probably dozens of things you’d rather do. Still, essay writing is an important part of the academic experience which helps you to develop some of the key skills you need to have when you enter the workforce.” (Excerpt from: Tissington, P. 2009. How to write successful business and management essays. Los Angeles, CA: Sage. p. 100)

According to Tissington (2009), writing an essay can feel like a fight. It is hard to read books, scholarly articles, and internet sites in order to build a persuasive argument, and there are lots of more enjoyable ways to pass the time. Nonetheless, paper writing is a vital part of university life. It helps you master some of the things you’ll need to know when you enter the business world.
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Tissington (2009) states that academic writing is an important skill for future employment, but acknowledges that it can be a challenging one to master. Given that employment may be several years away for many undergraduates, it might be valuable for students to look elsewhere to learn ways to motivate themselves in the short-term when faced with an academic paper. If writing is, as Tissington states, “a battle” (2009, p. 100), then students require encouragement and a battle-plan, not just assurances that it will all pay off in the future.

You would then include Tissington’s book in your list of References:

Case #2: Quoting and Citing
How about this…is there a problem?

**ORIGINAL:**

During times of economic downturn, colleges and universities often see enrollments rise. To improve their opportunities in a diminishing job market, students transfer or return to postsecondary education to complete a degree.

From: “K. Davies-Vollum and C. Greengrove. 2010. Developing a “Gateway” course to prepare non-traditional students for success.”

**YOUR ESSAY:**

There are various theories about why enrollments are higher in some years than others. During times of economic downturn, colleges and universities often see enrollments rise. To improve their opportunities in a diminishing job market, students often go back to school to complete a degree (Davies-Vollum and Greengrove 2010).
Yes, there is a problem!

Use of a citation implies you have used the ideas of another….but not their exact words. If you use their exact words you must use quotation marks!
Case #3: Taking Accurate Notes
You’re cutting and pasting information from the articles you find into a Word document. What are some of the ways you can run into trouble?

You find a useful section in an article and copy it…

…and then paste it into an open Word document.
Find a method that works, and use it. One option: The Q-QUOTES Method

Start with ALL of your citation details at the top of a new page. You can still cut and paste the information; just make sure that you have it!

The Basics of the Q-QUOTES Method:

Citation details

Quote taken from page 23

Quote taken from page 24

Anything outside of Q-Quotes is your own paraphrase

University Students’ Perceptions of Plagiarism. Full Text Available

Q 23 Blah blah blah blah

Q 23-24 Blah blah // blah

Q Blah blah blah.
Case #4: 
Doing Your Own Work
Discuss:

• Is it appropriate to hire an editor for your papers?

• What about having your friend or parent proofread your assignments?

• Politicians have speechwriters…executives don’t write their own memos…fiction and non-fiction writers have editors…what’s the difference between that and getting help on your school work??
The difference is…

CONTEXT

You are not a politician or an executive; you have chosen to be a student.

According to TRU policy, “submitting as one’s own any academic exercise (e.g. written work, printing, sculpture, etc.) prepared totally or in part by another” is academic dishonesty. You need to do your own work.

This doesn’t mean you cannot get help! The TRU Writing Centre is in OM 2674, and online at http://www.tru.ca/writingcentre.html Peer feedback can be very useful.
Questions?

There are plenty of resources on campus to help you avoid academic dishonesty and to help you avoid some of the situations that cause dishonesty to happen in the first place. Ask for help! Ask for clarification!