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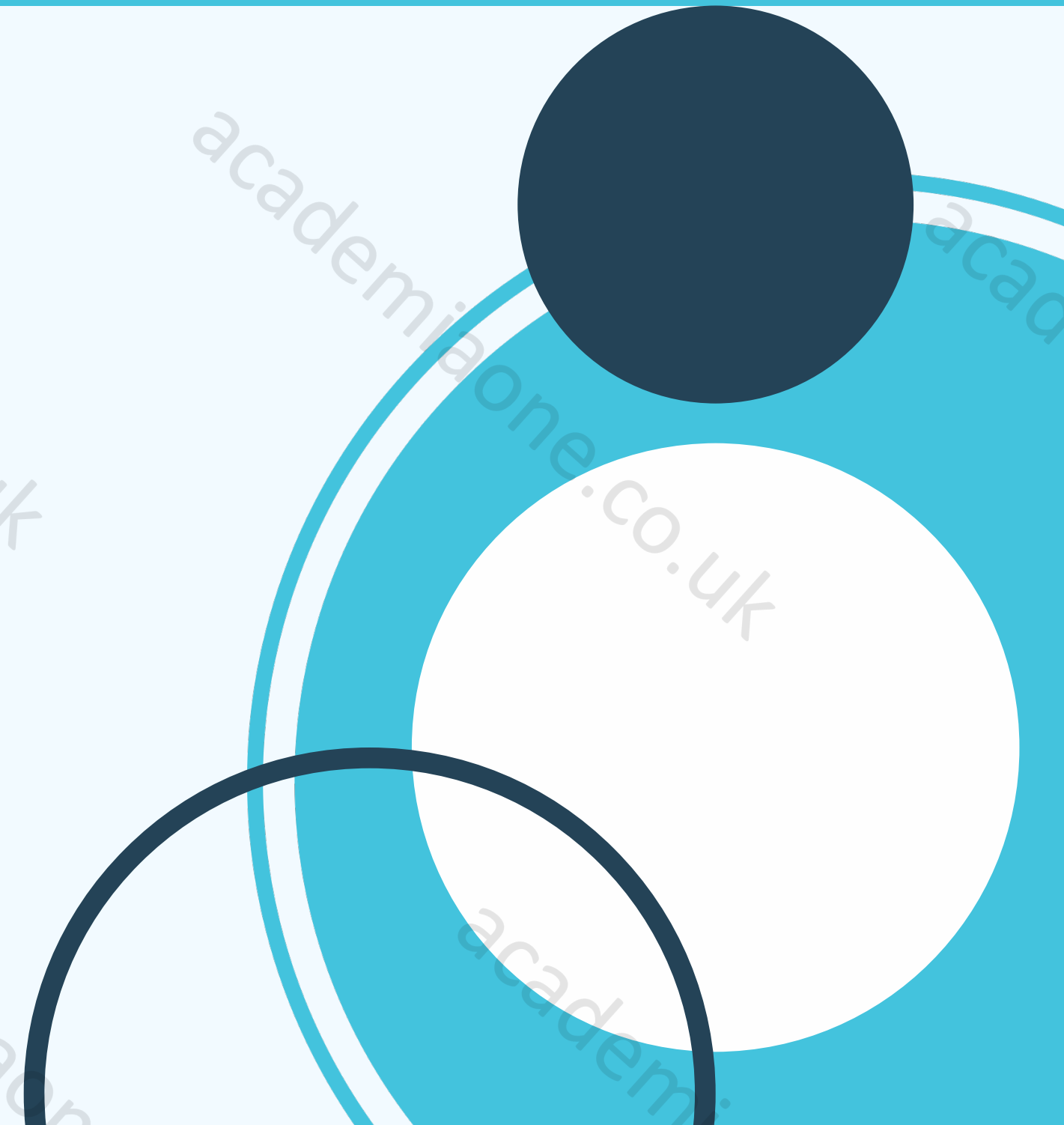
# How to paraphrase and never be penalised for plagiarism

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# IN THIS SEMINAR...

## KEY LEARNING OUTCOME: PERFECTING THE BALANCE BETWEEN ORIGINAL THOUGHTS AND PARAPHRASING FROM OTHERS' WRITING.

- group reflections on the home exercise & feedback on examples from you
- theory: what is plagiarism, common types of plagiarism, key steps for good paraphrasing
- Demonstration: dissertation Turnitin report
- Questions and discussion



# Home exercise - paraphrasing

How can the marker know if you plagiarised?

- How would you define plagiarism in your own words?
- How can one tell if a portion of a text involves plagiarism?



# Home exercise - Text A



Under US law, a shipbuilding contract is considered as having no maritime nature, and a vessel under construction is not viewed as a ship. Moreover, a shipyard employee who is assisting in the commissioning of a launched but incomplete vessel lying in navigable waters is not a seaman within the meaning of the Jones Act, 46 U.S.C. 688<sup>47</sup>. In *Frankel v Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard Inc*<sup>48</sup>, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit observed that a contract to build a ship was non-maritime in character, and the tort arising out of work on a launched but incomplete vessel also lacked a maritime flavor, despite the fact that the vessel was lying in navigable waters. As such, the said court held that the plaintiff was not a seaman within the meaning of the Jones Act, since he was not a member of the crew and his duties had no direct relation to navigation. He was merely working on an incomplete structure, which was being erected under a non-maritime contract. This structure had not yet been identified as a part of commerce and navigation. In *Williams v Avondale Shipyards Inc*<sup>49</sup>, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit also held that:

"For there to be a seaman, there must first be a ship. And an incomplete vessel not yet delivered by the builder is not such a ship. Ship and seaman, ship and seaworthiness are mutual reflexes."

# Home exercise - Text B



## INITIAL TEXT

According to Pettigrew (1998), Allport (1954) "held that positive effects of intergroup contact occur only in situations marked by four key conditions: equal group status within the situation; common goals; intergroup cooperation; and the support of authorities, law, or custom." Pettigrew (1998) proposes the inverse contact theory, meaning that prejudiced people avoid contact with out groups, thus "instead of optimal contact reducing prejudice, the opposite causal sequence could be operating. Prejudiced people may avoid contact with out-groups." Pettigrew (1998) concludes that "both individual differences and societal norms shape intergroup contact effects. The deeply prejudiced both avoid intergroup contact and resist positive effects from it."

## AN EXAMPLE FROM YOU

Pettigrew (1998) cites Allport's argument which points out the four key conditions for the positive impacts of intergroup contact. The four key conditions are "equal group status within the situation, common goals, intergroup cooperation and the support of authorities, law or custom (Allport, 1954 cited in Pettigrew, 1998, page number)". In addition, Pettigrew (1998) proposes the inverse contact theory, meaning that prejudiced people avoid contact with out groups. Thus, it is evident that optimal contact is less likely to reduce prejudice, and the contradictory result could work. Pettigrew (1998) concludes by highlighting the decisive factors for forming intergroup contact effects: individual differences and societal norms. According to his argument, prejudiced people show a hostile attitude towards intergroup contact, avoiding intergroup contact and resisting its benefits.



# Home exercise - Text B



## INITIAL TEXT

According to Pettigrew (1998), Allport (1954) "held that positive effects of intergroup contact occur only in situations marked by four key conditions: equal group status within the situation; common goals; intergroup cooperation; and the support of authorities, law, or custom." Pettigrew (1998) proposes the inverse contact theory, meaning that prejudiced people avoid contact with out groups, thus "instead of optimal contact reducing prejudice, the opposite causal sequence could be operating. Prejudiced people may avoid contact with out-groups." Pettigrew (1998) concludes that "both individual differences and societal norms shape intergroup contact effects. The deeply prejudiced both avoid intergroup contact and resist positive effects from it."

## AN EXAMPLE FROM YOU

Pettigrew (1998) shed light on the level of the prejudice of the individuals in a group as the fifth condition required to bring about positive intergroup contact. The four original key conditions were proposed by Allport (1954) as to whether the groups hold the same status within the situation, have shared goals, can cooperate and are supported by authorities, law, or custom (cited as Pettigrew, 1998). Pettigrew joined this discourse by adding the "inverse contact theory", suggesting that people with the deep prejudice derived from the individual differences and societal norms may be a cause for them to avoid intergroup contact and therefore not benefit from it. This can be interpreted that the level of prejudice of individuals from a group needs to be considered as an essential factor in the intergroup contact analysis.

# WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

## COPYING WORDS

- reproducing exact sentences or sequence of sentences without quoting and referencing

e.g. "Instead of optimal contact reducing prejudice, the opposite causal sequence could be operating. Prejudiced people may avoid contact with out-groups."

## USING SOURCES INCORRECTLY

- citing an inexistent source
- citing a source inaccurately

## COPYING IDEAS

- even if you write in your own words, you still have to reference the ideas which are not yours

e.g. "People who are prejudiced could avoid having contact with outsiders, thus, instead of being able to have optimal contact, the opposite can occur."

## PLAGIARISM INVOLVING DATA

- fabrication - 'faking' data/findings
- falsification - altering data to obtain certain results

# Plagiarism comes in many forms...avoid all of them!

## DIRECT PLAGIARISM

Have you copy-pasted sentences from other sources in your dissertation draft? Make sure you highlight them in your draft when you are in the process of writing so that you don't forget to either quote, summarise or paraphrase & reference correctly. Direct plagiarism is the most severe form of plagiarism and will be detected immediately.

## 'MOSAIC' PLAGIARISM

Have you copied ideas from a variety of sources in your paragraph to create a whole? Make sure you reference the appropriate sources if these ideas are not your own. Changing a few words or replacing most words with synonyms without mentioning the source will still be detected as plagiarism. Likewise, a mix of your own sentences and someone else's (without referencing) is plagiarism.

## SELF-PLAGIARISM

Self-plagiarism can be intentional e.g. a student submitting parts of a paper or the same paper for two separate submissions. It can also be unintentional, such as if drawing on ideas from your previous written work. You can reference your previous work if you draw or build on it. Check with your tutor if your assignment allows you to use any previous work.

## ACCIDENTAL PLAGIARISM

The plagiarism checker software will detect plagiarism, not whether your intention was to plagiarise or you accidentally did it. Accidental plagiarism happens and has similar consequences. The best way to avoid falling in the trap of accidental plagiarism is to keep organised and detailed notes. Keep good notes for internet sources too, as these will also be detected by the software.



# PARAPHRASING INCORRECTLY IS THE MOST WIDESPREAD TYPE OF PLAGIARISM

## CITE YOUR SOURCES

Paraphrasing is not plagiarism if the ideas are accurately attributed to their sources.

## WHY GOOD NOTES MATTER

When we read a variety of sources, it can be tempting to combine ideas to shape our paragraphs and arguments. Good note taking will help you avoid such situations, as you will always know where the ideas came from.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEXTS

The same rules apply to translating foreign texts – paraphrasing is still plagiarism if the sources are not cited.

# KEY STEPS FOR GOOD PARAPHRASING

## IDENTIFY IF PARAPHRASING IS THE RIGHT STRATEGY

- Sources can be used in three main ways: direct quoting, paraphrasing and summarising.
- Paraphrasing is common when you want to provide detail on a certain source.
- Understanding the text is key. Would a direct quote or a summary be more appropriate for your purposes?

## NOTE THE MAIN IDEAS

- What are the key concepts and ideas in the text?
- Have I understood the text?
- It's a good idea to read the paragraph/sentence/idea you will paraphrase at least a couple of times.

## WRITE IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS

- Can I write this in my own words without looking at the original text?
- Does my paraphrasing preserve the meaning of the original text?
- Paraphrasing will result into a similar length to the original text. If it is much shorter, it is summarising.

## DON'T FORGET THE FINISHING TOUCHES

- Add the reference in the appropriate referencing style. Having the source in the bibliography is not enough.
- Can I rephrase or use synonyms for anything that is too close to the original?
- Can I change the sentence structure, length or voice to make the text less similar?

# **LIVE DEMONSTRATION - INTERPRETING YOUR TURNITIN REPORT (AND REDUCING YOUR SIMILARITY SCORE)**

- Law dissertation Turnitin report





# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION





## Next week

### **Seminar 10: Polishing your language to move your essay up a grade (with Alexandra)**

An exercise on editing will be sent via email and discussed in the seminar.  
Home exercises will be emailed to you every Monday morning – make sure to check your inbox before the Thursday class.