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Citation and Plagiarism

When constructing a research paper there are a few components a student must keep in mind. It’s important for us to be aware of plagiarism and to ensure that we are citing our sources. The definition of plagiarism is the act of stealing another person’s work and claiming their information as their own. The power point I watched discussed plagiarism in greater detail. One thing he mentioned in the video was that not all forms of plagiarism are done on purpose. There have been situations where a student would do a research paper correctly but would forget to cite their findings. The PowerPoint also gave an example of why certain fields wouldn’t be considered plagiarism. For example, if an individual was to make a work report they could use bits of information they find on their company website and discuss their finding without a citation list. This is because it isn’t part of the information literacy scholarship as a conversion. Information literacy tutorial number six is about plagiarism, and it gave me a couple of quiz questions to answer. For example, it would give me a source of a document and an example of what the student wrote, and I had to determine if it was or wasn’t plagiarism.

There are steps students can follow to ensure their research paper does not involve plagiarism. One step I’m going to discuss is called a citation. Citation is the act of giving credit to the author’s information that was used to create a research paper. In the PowerPoint, I watched he talked about how citation practices are like a distributed ledger. He explained how citation is not only about giving credit to where the information originated from. It is also about tracking the history of the information, it helps a reader identify where you found that specific detail. For example, if a professor is checking my research paper and wants to locate a piece of information, he can use the citation to locate it. From there the professor can ensure the information I put down is accurate and can conclude that either I know what I am talking about or not. Information literacy 5 educated me more on citations. One of the quiz questions asked me which of the following answers is not the purpose of citation. The correct answer surprisingly was to keep me from getting in trouble. Like what was said in the PowerPoint the purpose of citation also includes a path to the source, credibility to my claim, and credit to the authors involved.

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