

Mars Hill Plagiarism Guidelines

Ben Hughes, January 2016

PLAGIARISM DEFINITION

Mars Hill follows the definition of plagiarism given by the Council of Writing Program Administrators:

In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.
(wpacouncil.org)

Mars Hill also follows the WPA in their differentiation between plagiarism and failure to properly or completely cite sources: "Students are not guilty of plagiarism when they try in good faith to acknowledge others' work but fail to do so accurately or fully."

MARS HILL PLAGIARISM POLICY

Willful plagiarism carries with it the same consequences as other forms of cheating at Mars Hill.

Mere failure to cite sources correctly or completely will be evaluated on an individual basis and corrected by the respective English teacher.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

Again, from the WPA:

Students should understand research assignments as opportunities for genuine and rigorous inquiry and learning. Such an understanding involves:

- Assembling and analyzing a set of sources that they have themselves determined are relevant to the issues they are investigating;
- Acknowledging clearly when and how they are drawing on the ideas or phrasings of others;
- Learning the conventions for citing documents [MLA] and acknowledging sources appropriate to the field they are studying;
- Consulting their instructors when they are unsure about how to acknowledge the contributions of others to their thought and writing.

Finally, and most importantly, students should continually consider that Mars Hill is ultimately a place for them to know God in their studies. Approaching each writing assignment with the attitude found in Col. 3:23-25 will keep them far from any moral fault of plagiarism and will provide them with ample motivation to learn and master the conventions of properly incorporating sources into their writing:

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. (KJV)