PLAGIARISM

Defining Plagiarism
When you use another person's words or ideas and claim them as your own, you are committing plagiarism. Whether you found those words or ideas in a book or magazine, borrowed them from a friend's paper or fraternity file, downloaded them from a website, or purchased them from a paper writing service, using those words or ideas without giving the author full credit is stealing.

Avoiding Plagiarism
There is a simple way to avoid plagiarism: cite your source. When you use someone else's exact words, enclose those words in quotation marks and identify the source in a parenthetical citation and on your "Works Cited" page. When you restate someone else's words or ideas, identify the source in a parenthetical citation and on your "Works Cited" page. Here are some examples.

Direct quotation:
In his essay “The Flaw in the Flaw,” Russ McDonald argues that we should not think of Shakespeare’s heroes as doomed by their tragic flaws but should instead “regard them as gifted, as possessing a surplus of talent that puts them into immediate conflict with a hostile world” (9).

Paraphrase:
When trying to understand Shakespeare's heroes, critic Russ McDonald argues, we should not rely on the idea of the 'tragic flaw' but should instead see these characters as too idealistic, intelligent, or powerful to fit comfortably into the world in which they live (9).

Plagiarism:
Shakespeare's heroes aren't tragically flawed; they are just too talented for the rest of the world to appreciate.

Detecting Plagiarism
An instructor who suspects plagiarism will compare your essay to the available sources. You might be asked to show your rough drafts, define words you have used, or explain in writing what you meant in a passage that seems different from your usual writing style.

Penalizing Plagiarism
The University and the English Department regard plagiarism as a serious offense, and will make every effort to impose the maximum penalty on any student who plagiarizes. Your instructor may give a paper or test a "0" if there is a clear indication of plagiarism. A "0" gives you no credit for the assignment and might lead to a failing grade in the course if the assignment is a substantial requirement. Your instructor might also cite you with violating the UNO Judicial Code, which could lead to your being placed on probation, suspended, or even expelled from the University.