Hi, I’m Kimberly Wirth, a librarian at the Porter Henderson Library. Today we’ll discuss plagiarism; what it is and its impact on your assignments at Angelo State University.
Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work or ideas and passing it off as your own. This is a serious academic offense and ASU takes it seriously.

Please pause the video and read The ASU Code of Student Conduct’s descriptions of plagiarism and self-plagiarism.

If you are caught plagiarizing at ASU: you could receive an F on your project, fail the course, be suspended, or even be expelled from the university.
The reason Plagiarism is taken so seriously is because it’s unethical. It’s a violation of trust that’s shared between student and instructor that the work you’re claiming to do is your own. It is both dishonest and stealing.

Colleges and universities are known for producing research and scholarship on a variety of subjects. This body of work represents a scholarly conversation and your assignments are part of that conversation.
Claiming someone else’s work as your own makes it more difficult to identify the true source in this conversation. So, we give credit to those whose work provides us with the insight and ideas we need to make our own contributions.

Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional.

Intentional plagiarism occurs when someone deliberately and knowingly plagiarizes. For example, by having someone else write your paper, or not bothering to cite your sources.
This company offers a custom writing service that produces plagiarism free papers. What do you think, can you use this or any similar company to write your papers for assignments at ASU?

Putting your name on a paper that was written by someone else, is plagiarism, no matter what they say in their advertising.
Unintentional Plagiarism frequently occurs through issues with our citations such as the failure to properly paraphrase, summarize, or quote passages.

Let’s say we read this passage in the Martin Rogers’ essay in this book and wanted to use it in our paper.
So we added the passage to our paper and mentioned Martin Rogers. Is it plagiarized?

This is plagiarism because we did not add quotes around the passage we copied word for word, and we did not cite the source where we found the quote.
Here is an example of what our paper might look like with quotes and in-text citation.

Zombies in Film
In the film *28 Days Later*, animal rights protesters break into a laboratory where scientists are testing a rage-inducing virus on animals. The protesters free the animals... and the virus, which goes on to infect billions of people around the world. In this paper, I will apply Martin Rogers’ (2008) theory of the zombie film to argue that *28 Days Later* appropriates a conventional horror scenario – the zombie film – to explore the aftereffects of personal and physical trauma* (p. 120).

What if we decided to paraphrase the passage? This time we don’t need quotes. Is it plagiarism?
Yes, this is plagiarism because, even though we used our own words, the idea is not our own. We need to cite the source where Martin Rogers expressed this theory.

Here is our paraphrased passage with citation.
We do not have to cite anything that is Common Knowledge. While this may be tricky to understand, a good rule of thumb is to consider Common Knowledge to be information your readers will know and accept without having to look it up.

Common Knowledge can change based on your audience. For example something written for a group of professionals in a field may include information that is Common Knowledge to them but will not be Common Knowledge if the paper is written for the general public.

This concludes the video on Understanding Plagiarism. Please contact us if you have any questions and don’t forget to watch our video on Avoiding Plagiarism for tips on how to submit a plagiarism free paper.