Plagiarism is a form of cheating in which a person takes the words or ideas of another person and represents them as her or his own. There are two pitfalls that commonly lead to accusations of plagiarism and both are easily avoidable.

(1) As a college student in a university level course you are a scholar, and like your scholar peers at any college or university in the U.S., when you submit a paper with your name on it, you are warranting that the language and ideas in that paper are yours, and that all quotations, paraphrases, and ideas or data of others are clearly identified. For most of the papers in this class you will need to use the words and ideas of other authors, either those we have read and discussed in class or, in the case of the research report, those you will acquire in a library, online, or elsewhere. **When you use the words and/or ideas of others, whether in quotation, paraphrase, or summary, you must acknowledge the original source.** Materials that require documentation include: direct or indirect quotations, paraphrases or summaries, any ideas or opinions of others which you put into your paper, and any specific data, such as statistics.

(2) If you receive assistance with your paper(s), you must include a brief statement at the end of the paper about the nature and scope of the assistance. **In no case, however, should you submit a paper when another**
person has made extensive editing for content, style, grammar, or word choice.

In her book, Hacker discusses the subject of plagiarism on pp. 331 – 34. In Sections R and MLA, she discusses how to document summaries and paraphrases and how to use quotations fairly and effectively. I urge you to read these brief but vital sections before you write your second paper.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating for which you will receive an “F” and may be disciplined or expelled by the college.