HANDOUT – WEEK 1

1) **PLAGIARISM** (SOURCE: Princeton University: http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/plagiarism/)

The examples below demonstrate a few varieties of textual plagiarism, from **verbatim copying to thorough paraphrasing**. The comments that follow the examples offer guidance about how a source may be used and when a source must be cited.

Text example 1

Original source (text)

Alvin Kernan, *The Playwright as Magician.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979. pp. 102–103.

> From time to time this submerged or latent theater in becomes almost overt. It is close to the surface in Hamlet's pretense of madness, the "antic disposition" he puts on to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from plucking out the heart of his mystery. It is even closer to the surface when Hamlet enters his mother's room and holds up, side by side, the pictures of the two kings, Old Hamlet and Claudius, and proceeds to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made, presenting truth by means of a show. Similarly, when he leaps into the open grave at Ophelia's funeral, ranting in high heroic terms, he is acting out for Laertes, and perhaps for himself as well, the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.

Verbatim plagiarism, or unacknowledged direct quotation (lifted passages are underlined)

> Almost all of Shakespeare's Hamlet can be understood as a play about acting and the theater. For example, there is Hamlet's pretense of madness, the "antic disposition" that he puts on to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from plucking out the heart of his mystery. When Hamlet enters his mother's room, he holds up, side by side, the pictures of the two kings, Old Hamlet and Claudius, and proceeds to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made, presenting truth by means of a show. Similarly, when he leaps into the open grave at Ophelia's funeral, ranting in high heroic terms, he is acting out for Laertes, and perhaps for himself as well, the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.

Comment for example I

> Aside from an opening sentence loosely adapted from the original and reworded more simply, this entire passage is taken almost word-for-word from the source. The few small alterations of the source do not relieve the writer of the responsibility to attribute these words to their original author, Alvin Kernan. A passage from a source may be worth quoting at length if it makes a point precisely or elegantly. In such cases, copy the passage exactly, place it in quotation marks, and cite the author.

Text example 2

Original source (text)

From time to time this submerged or latent theater in *Hamlet* becomes almost overt. It is close to the surface in Hamlet's pretense of madness, the "antic disposition" he puts on to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from plucking out the heart of his mystery. It is even closer to the surface when Hamlet enters his mother's room and holds up, side by side, the pictures of the two kings, Old Hamlet and Claudius, and proceeds to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made, presenting truth by means of a show. Similarly, when he leaps into the open grave at Ophelia's funeral, ranting in high heroic terms, he is acting out for Laertes, and perhaps for himself as well, the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.

Lifting selected passages and phrases without proper acknowledgment (lifted passages are underlined)

Almost all of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* can be understood as a play about acting and the theater. For example, in Act 1, Hamlet adopts a pretense of madness that he uses to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from discovering his mission to revenge his father's murder. He also presents truth by means of a show when he compares the portraits of Gertrude's two husbands in order to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made. And when he leaps in Ophelia's open graveranting in high heroic terms, Hamlet is acting out the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.

Comment for example 2

This passage, in content and structure, is taken wholesale from the source. Although the writer has rewritten much of the paragraph, and fewer phrases are lifted verbatim from the source, this is a clear example of plagiarism. Inserting even short phrases from the source into a new sentence still requires placing **quotations** around the borrowed words and **citing** the author. If even one phrase is good enough to borrow, it must be properly set off by quotation marks. In the case above, if the writer had rewritten the entire paragraph and used only Alvin Kernan's phrase "high heroic terms" without properly quoting and acknowledging its source, the writer would have plagiarized.

Text example 3

Original source (text)

From time to time this submerged or latent theater in Hamlet becomes almost overt. It is close to the surface in Hamlet's pretense of madness, the "antic disposition" he puts on to protect himself and prevent his antagonists from plucking out the heart of his mystery. It is even closer to the surface when Hamlet enters his mother's room and holds up, side by side, the pictures of the two kings, Old Hamlet and Claudius, and proceeds to describe for her the true nature of the choice she has made, presenting truth by means of a show. Similarly, when he leaps into the open grave at Ophelia's funeral, ranting in high heroic terms, he is acting out for Laertes, and perhaps for himself as well, the folly of excessive, melodramatic expressions of grief.

Paraphrasing the text while maintaining the basic paragraph and sentence structure

Almost all of Shakespeare's Hamlet can be understood as a play about acting and the theater. For example, in Act 1, Hamlet pretends to be insane in order to make sure his enemies do not discover his mission to revenge his father's murder. The theme is even more obvious when Hamlet compares the pictures of his mother's two husbands to show her what a bad choice she has made, using their images to reveal the truth. Also, when he jumps into Ophelia's grave, hurling his challenge to Laertes, Hamlet demonstrates the foolishness of exaggerated expressions of emotion.

Comment for example 3

Almost nothing of Kernan's original language remains in this rewritten paragraph. However, the key idea, the choice and order of the examples, and even the basic structure of the original sentences are all taken from the source. This is another clear example of plagiarism. When paraphrasing, it's absolutely necessary (1) to use your own words and structure, and (2) to place a citation at the end of the paraphrase to acknowledge that the content is not original.

2) Types of essays: identify the genre of these essays

Currently, the world is facing an epidemic due to what is considered to be among the most dangerous viruses that humanity has ever faced – the Ebola hemorrhagic virus. Though there were announcements about experimental cures that were reported to be successful in terms of treating the virus, people around the world continue to die from Ebola. Though this virus is lethal, its symptoms are sometimes the same as less dangerous diseases – such as fever or flu. To settle anxiety about the spread of this virus, it is important to know what humanity currently deals with in terms of this epidemic.

Ebola was first discovered 1976 in Africa, on the banks of the Ebola river, after which the virus has been named. Back then, there were two major outbreaks of the virus, and this is how people learned about it. There exist several strains of the Ebola virus, some of them are deadly to people, and some are not.

The main symptoms of Ebola can appear in a period between the second and the 21st days of contamination, but usually it happens on the eighth through 10th day (CDC). Among the symptoms that appear in the first turn, one should mention fever and chills, strong headaches, pain in joints and muscles, and general weakness. These symptoms are not too different from those that people usually experience when catching a severe cold, or flu, so victims may even ignore these symptoms, or try to treat them as a

common sickness. However, as the virus keeps progressing, a patient develops nausea with vomiting, diarrhea, chest and stomach pains, red eyes and rash over the body, severe weight loss and bleeding from almost all bodily orifices (Mayo Clinic).

The virus is usually transmitted either through blood, or through waste. Contagion through blood usually takes place if a person consumes infested meat, or even touches it (for example, butchering can also lead to contamination). Also, there were cases when people got infected after stepping in feces of infected mammals, mostly bats (Mayo Clinic). The other ways of getting infected is through skin by receiving bodily fluids through pores.

Even though there is no specific cure from Ebola, doctors still try to treat it. In order to diagnose Ebola, doctors usually take tests on such diseases as cholera or malaria, because it is difficult to diagnose Ebola based solely on symptoms. After the diagnosis has been made, doctors start treating the symptoms, which includes eliminating infected cells, electrolytes, blood pressure medication, blood transfusions, oxygen therapy, and so on (WebMD).

Though Ebola is a highly dangerous disease, it is not likely that it will spread globally. It is most deadly in anti-sanitary conditions, which many African countries are notorious for. As for first world countries, even though there is still no universal cure, they are at much lesser risk than African countries. Though the symptoms of Ebola are severe and getting infected is not difficult, with the correct handling of an outbreak, the virus should not be able to spread.

The two statements address an identical topic. That is, they address charity, which might be defined as--the act of giving something of value, without the

expectation of something in return. Further, the two statements address the receiver, the person or persons to whom the charity is directed.
That the two statements both give equal weight to the meaning of charity is evidenced by the descriptions "doing good," and "hand stretched out to save." These descriptions both illustrate the beneficence of the act of charity, that it is in one act, both a recognition of need, and an attempt to fulfill that need. They both paint a picture of goodness, honor and sharing on the part of the charity giver.
Contrary to these similarities, the two statements are in stark opposition to the beneficiary's status in society. The first, calling the receivers "good for nothing people," depicts vagrants, bums, and worthless flies, fouling the smooth-flowing surface of society. The second, seeing the receivers as involved in an "inferno," brings to mind visions of lost souls, wandering homeless and possesionless in the Dante-esque hell of a society which measures a person's worth by his wealth.
Another contrast between the two statements, more subtle yet intuitively strong, is that the benefactor, the charity-giver, attains an even higher degree of honor when he gives to one in true need, than when his sharing is enforced, by taxes, social pressure or inherited response. The first statement speaks to the latter of these, the second to the former. Thus, the second statement not only attributes a higher character to the beneficiary, but also to the benefactor whose actions are performed from the heart.
Although the truth, as always, lies in the middle ground, between these two extremes, I am more inclined to the second statement. I have felt some degree of sympathy to almost every destitute, penniless or homeless person that I have met. Hobos, bums on trains and the road, are there usually as a result of a fallen thread in the Fates' tapestry or a falling out with society. Some would not accept a handout if offered, demanding to perform work in exchange, while others are every way deserving of a handout, refusing formal governmental welfare.
The poor of the urban slums are, the vast majority of the time, victims of a society which has entrenched them in a lifestyle from which it is virtually to lift themselves out. These are the ones which are most aptly described as falling to an "inferno" in their present life. That society is obligated to providing charity to these victims of its own hand is just.
I have observed examples or persons receiving charity who simply in the act of accepting it, belie a certain "good-for- nothingness." These are usually persons who would be affluent other than for a desire to catch a free ride on societies' back. A part-time employed student, relaxing for the summer at the taxpayers' expense is one example which stands out in my personal experience.
Still those in the category of good for nothing are a minute proportion of those receiving charity. With an optomistic view of the situation of mankind, one cannot deny the value of charity not only to those receiving it, but to the world in general.

Happiness

Humankind can't continue their lives without desires. If one wants to be happy, surely, he has to discover his best desires that provide

him a happy life. Some of these desires that help to continue our lives can be acceptance in our relationships, a good family life and strong social relations. Trying to satisfy these desires has a great meaning to achieve happiness for me.

To start with, however embarrassed I am about this desire of mine, I have an obsession to expect people to accept my thoughts and manners in every situation. Yes, this is not a good characteristic and sometimes makes me an antipathic person but trying to be accepted by someone can give you happiness, too. Besides, if you can manage to make someone love you knowing and accepting all about you, I think that is the absolute happiness.

Furthermore, it seems to me that family is the basic source of happiness. Certainly, I can't always be a good guy and sometimes I make them upset but I can't stand seeing them upset. Therefore, I try to do whatever necessary to make them happy. Consequently, when I see happy family faces, I feel deeply happy.

Thirdly, to have friends is one of the most meaningful aspects of life. I believe that one should have three very warm friends at least. For example, I can't bear loneliness and if I couldn't share all my heart with these warm friends, I believe that I could never be happy. As a consequence, if you feel like me, it will be worth improving your close relationships in order to be happy.

To recap, humankind has a short life but he is given a lot of desires to be happy. Moreover, if one wants to discover the meaning of his short life, he should look for it in desires. Whether he finds it or not, he will taste happiness just by looking for it.

Nominated for the Beulah Davis Outstanding Freshman Writer Award

Life on this planet Earth is the product of a delicate balancing act provided by nature. Mankind's very existence is totally dependent on this fragile ecosystem's ability to maintain itself. A valuable player in

the balance of the environment, the ozone layer, is facing a very serious threat by man. Chloroflourocarbons (CFCs), are chemical agents commonly found in refrigerants, aerosol sprays, and in the manufacturing of Styrofoam and industrial solvents. With the rate of more than a half-million tons of CFCs being spewed into the atmosphere yearly, the rate of ozone depletion is rising at an alarming rate. If a global effort is not made to end the unnecessary use of CFCs, the inhabitants of this planet face an extremely difficult and frightening future.

CFCs were invented in Dayton, Ohio, in 1928. They were the product of an intensive search by engineers with the G. M. Research Corporation to find a safe, non-toxic, non-flammable refrigerant. Frigidaire patented the formula for CFCs in 1928 and the "new wonder gas" was named Freon. Seth Cagin and Phillip Dray, co-authors of Between Earth and Sky, inform us in their story of CFCs that "Freon soon topped the list of wonders, a 'miracle' refrigerant . . . [with the] combination of safety, cleanliness, and efficiency . . . " (66). Not only was the apparently "safe" gas being used in refrigeration, but with the innovation of air-conditioning by Willis Carrier prior to World War I, Freon would one day be used to cool our homes, automobiles, and businesses.

Other applications for CFCs soon followed. Out of the need to eliminate malaria-carrying mosquitoes during the first World War, Freon 12 was found to be an excellent propellant to distribute insecticide--thus the birth of the aerosol spray can. "From eight aerosol-related companies in the late forties, the industry grew to more than one hundred just a few years later" (Cagin and Dray 87). CFCs were soon making the lives of millions of Americans much more comfortable. They were also making the Kinetic Chemical Company, a joint corporation of General Motors and Dupont who manufactured and marketed Freon, extremely wealthy.

But in August of 1985, the entire world was informed by a group of scientists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center that the sky was literally falling. A NASA satellite photo revealed that a portion of the ozone layer the size of the continental United States had disappeared from the atmosphere above Antarctica. This startling information confirmed the theory of scientists that the use of CFCs were rapidly destroying the ozone layer.

Ozone is a trace gas naturally formed in the stratosphere. It forms a layer which shields the earth and its inhabitants from the deadly ultraviolet waves emitted by the sun. According to Gordon Keyes with the National Institute of Atmosphere and Water, depletion of this thin layer of ozone not only increases health risks such as skin cancer and suppression of the immune system, it may also cause a decrease in aquatic species and endanger the basic food chain of the ocean (3). The chlorine which results from the breakdown of CFCs in the atmosphere combines with other "greenhouse gases" and enhances the global warming threat. Vice President Al Gore warns of still another consideration in ozone depletion in his national best seller *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit:*

Ironically, as the amount of ozone in the stratosphere declines, the extra ultra-violet radiation streaming through also interacts with the local air pollution above cities and increase the amount of smog--including the amount of low-level ozone. While ozone in the stratosphere protects us by absorbing ultra-violet radiation before it can reach the surface, ozone at ground level is a harmful pollutant that irritates our lungs (87).

There is much more at risk here than simply a severe case of sunburn. Unfortunately, the world is already witnessing the early effects of ozone depletion.

Since its discovery in 1985, the ozone hole above Antarctica has grown to three times the size of the continental United States. In addition, according to Gore, "scientists believe it is only a matter of time before significant ozone depletion occurs in the Northern Hemisphere" (87). The ozone layer in that region is already thinning, "almost 10 percent in just four decades" (Gore 87). In just a ten-year span, "researchers had seen an astonishing 340 percent increase in cases of melanoma in the southwestern United States" (Cagin and Dray 325). In 1987, a New York physician treated six patients with "retinal sunburn". What he discovered was that

All six had been sunbathing on the afternoon of March 29, 1987, an unseasonably warm day that had sent people across the northeast out of doors to parks, backyards and beaches. What none realized, or could have known, was that the balmy weather was accompanied by an "ozone hole" STRETCHING from Michigan to New England. (Cagin and Dray 326)

Also, in the southern hemisphere where ozone depletion is a "fact of life," residents in that region receive official warnings when high levels of UV light are expected. Families have made a practice of keeping their children indoors between the hours of 10 A. M. and 3 P. M., and outdoor school activities are always scheduled for late afternoon.

One would think that with the prospect of all living organisms upon this planet being roasted to a golden crunch there would be a mad rush by industry and government to halt production and use of CFCs, but that just has not been the case. After the CFC/Ozone theory was proven and became public knowledge in 1975, industries involved in the manufacture and use of CFCs blatantly ignored the threat and continued with their "business as usual" policy. But bowing to consumer activists in June of 1975, "the Johnson Wax Company, the nation's fifth largest manufacture of aerosol products, announced it would immediately end all uses of CFC propellants in aerosols" (Roan 59). It was in that same month and year that Oregon became the first state to ban CFCs in aerosol sprays. The federal government would wait another year before it took any action, which consisted of a proposal of the FDA and EPA to phase out CFCs in aerosols. An additional year passed before those departments actually came up with a timetable to implement their plan. But this "ban" pertained only to CFCs in aerosols, and included no regulations on CFCs in refrigerants, Styrofoam, or other industrial applications.

For whatever reason, public interest in the ozone issue began to wane in the 1980's, during the Reagan administration. Phil Brick reveals in his article in Environment magazine that "Ronald Reagan was the first U.S. president to make a concerted effort to reverse the tide of environmental regulation . . . " (20). George Bush reneged on his promise to be "the environmental president." The environmental movement was revived for a short while when the Clinton administration took office. There seemed to be renewed interest in environmental issues with the President's appointment of prominent environmentalists to top cabinet-level positions. Unfortunately, after just three years in office, the administration seems to have forgotten most of its environmental initiatives.

On the international front, delegates from forty-three nations met in Montreal in 1987, and signed an agreement calling for eventual worldwide CFC reductions of fifty percent. But two months after the treaty was signed, new scientific evidence became available which disclosed ozone depletion was occurring at a much faster rate than

previous models had predicted. Roan tells us the scientific community informed the world that "Without global controls, the world would lose half its ozone layer by 2075" (227). The United States ratified the Montreal Protocol the following year without calling for any of the resolutions lawmakers had suggested to speed up CFC reductions.

Twenty years have passed since the CFC/Ozone theory was discovered. Since that time, scientific evidence clearly indicates that not only is the earth losing its protective shield, it is disappearing at an alarmingly rapid rate. And still the nations of the world are pumping millions of tons of CFCs into the atmosphere each year. Regulations in the United States have contributed to a decrease in the amount of CFCs this nation emits. Figures from the U.S. Bureau of the Census indicate a drop in those emissions from 278,000 metric tons in 1987 to 180,000 metric tons in 1993 (235). But with the allowance in increased use of CFCs by developing third world countries afforded by the Montreal Protocol, global total reduction in their use will amount to only 35 percent (Roan 227). Government regulations appear to be only a band-aid on a wound of immense proportions.

The chief opponent to a ban on CFCs is industry, and with good reason. A total ban would eliminate the entire industry and billions of dollars in profits. The Dupont Corporation, which supplies one-quarter of the world's demand for CFCs, has been the leader in both time and money spent in lobbying lawmakers for softer regulations on the CFC issue. That time and money would have been much better spent on research for safer inexpensive alternatives to CFCs. To discourage concerned consumers, industry has maintained that a switch to alternatives would be cost-prohibitive and less efficient, but that has not proven true.

There has already been a substitute found for Freon that would cost approximately three to five time more. But in the case of air-conditioning and coolants, a substitute is not even needed. New technology has found a way to recycle the chemicals that can be safely removed from discarded air-conditioning and refrigeration units. It is apparent that there are billions of dollars to be made by industry in a transition to alternatives. Initially consumers may have to absorb the higher costs of the new technology, but that cost would appear to be minimal compared to the prospect of a world without an ozone layer. Aid to farmers in these recent years of record drought is already costing taxpayers billions of dollars. That is only a drop in the bucket

compared to the resulting health care costs projected for the very near future.

Although action is already being taken on the CFC/Ozone issue on both global and national levels, there are steps we, as individuals, can take to heal our "shattered sky." Consumers need to make a practice of reading labels on spray cans, and avoid using products containing any of the chlorine compounds. Air-conditioning hoses on automobiles should be changed at the first sign of wear by an agent certified in the proper handling of coolants to prevent unnecessary leaking of CFCs into the atmosphere. Proper disposal of those coolants used in refrigeration and air-conditioning is now mandated by the federal government and any violations of those laws could result in a heavy fine. Consumers can ask dry cleaners to avoid the use of CFC solvents in cleaning garments. Probably the most important role individuals have in the CFC/Ozone issue is education.

Public interest in environmental issues has been in a steady decline since the beginning of this decade, and with it the "awareness" of environmental hazards which was evident in the 70's and 80's. In a recent door-to-door survey I conducted of neighborhood households, only 20 percent of the adult respondents knew what CFCs were, and even fewer were aware of health risks involved in the use of those chemical agents (see Appendix for a copy of the survey and raw data).

Education and awareness are essential keys to a healthy future for our world. It is human nature to ignore those problems not evident to the five senses. If it is not seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touchable, it is soon forgotten. So just imagine . . . picture a world brown and seared, empty of green and of life, windswept and barren. This is the future of our planet Earth, destroyed by the most intelligent creature to ever live upon it.