Plagiarism: why you should avoid it

[Narrator]:

Plagiarism is a serious issue we all need to be concerned about. Here’s a Cardiff University lecturer to explain why:

[Dr Steve Rutherford - Deputy Director of Education, Cardiff University School of Biosciences]:

So why shouldn't you plagiarise? Well, part of the reason is that it's unfair on people who did do the work and did put the effort in. But mostly because it's wasting your time and the time of the person who is marking it, because you're not actually helping yourself to learn.

Whether you're plagiarising from a direct source such as a textbook, a journal, or the internet, or another student, or even plagiarising from your own work that you did some time ago, you're not actually using that information, all you’re going it duplicating it. Therefore, you're not actually thinking about it and not learning from it. It doesn't help you understand what it is you're talking about and it doesn't help us help you correct any misunderstandings that you may have come across.

So, it's important to put things in your own words, but also to let us know where you got that information from so that we can check the information that you are using. And you need to reference it correctly, as well. If you don't do those things, you're not actually learning at all, and at the end of the day that's what you are here for.