Who me? Plagiarize?
Who, What, When, Where, Why and How (not to) of Plagiarism

Who?
According to a 1998 survey by Who’s Who Among American Students, four out of five college-bound students admit to cheating on school work. A recent Center for Academic Integrity study reports that 80% of college students admit to cheating at least once.

What is plagiarism?
According to the Moravian College Student Handbook 2003-2004, A major form of academic dishonesty is plagiarism, which the college defines as the use, whether deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgment. While the work of others often constitutes a necessary resource for academic research, such work must be properly used and credited to the original author. ... When the student uses the specific thoughts, ideas, writings, or expressions of others, they must accompany each instance of use with some form of attribution to the source. (p. 52)

Where does plagiarism occur?
Not only on papers, but on homework, computer solutions, lab reports, exams, quizzes. The Student Handbook states, all work that students submit or present as part of the course assignments or requirements must be their original work unless otherwise permitted by the instructor. This includes any work presented, whether in written, oral, or electronic form or in any other technical or artistic medium. (p.52)

When you are found guilty of plagiarism.
Student ignorance of bibliographic convention and citation procedures is not a valid excuse for having committed plagiarism. (Student Handbook, p. 52) If a student is found to be guilty of violating the academic honesty policy (Student Handbook, p. 51), the consequences are course failure, suspension, or expulsion from Moravian College.

Why is plagiarism so prevalent?
Plagiarism occurs in many forms. Often students try to write a paper the night before it is due, but find out that they don’t have enough time and resort to the term-paper mills, such as CheatHouse.com and Cheaters.com, which are easily accessible on the Internet. Additionally, students try to use a friend’s paper from a similar course and present it as their own. Moreover, students do not know how to properly cite references, so they neglect to do so thinking that the professor won’t recognize it.

How to NOT plagiarize.
Use the Bedford Handbook, or MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Available in the bookstore for $14.50. Two copies of the handbook are available in the reference section of the library. Also, Ten Steps to help you write better essays and term papers. Available in the bookstore for $9.95. Utilize the Writing Center in Zinzendorf 102 or Learning Services at 1307 Main St.

Academic integrity is the foundation on which learning at Moravian is built. p. 50, Student Handbook