

## Module 6 Theory

# Intellectual Property

Think of the University as a factory. Writing and research are the work of the University and knowledge is the product. In order for research to move forward, it is *necessary* to read what others have already discovered and written before us. This is the scholarly tradition. We must give credit to original research and acknowledge the sources we have used in our writing.

Work at the University level, and at UWM of course, is guided by ethical standards in all academic work including taking tests, writing research papers and publishing on the Web. Many students do not understand the extent of the rules for citing someone else's work in the research process, and thus do not know when they are plagiarizing. However, it is your responsibility to learn and use appropriate research writing techniques.

A research paper should be a combination of your ideas and the previous research of other scholars on the same topic. You can use another scholar's words, facts and ideas, but this borrowed material must not be presented as your own creation. When writing a research paper, you should not merely review publications and extract a series of quotations from them. You should be looking for sources that provide you with new information about the topic which you are writing about, that expand your ideas, provide negative and/or positive examples to help your argument and that lend authority to your viewpoint on the topic.