Plagiarism

What’s the Big Deal?
What is Plagiarism?

- The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft. (Oxford English Dictionary)

- The theft of intellectual property (creations of the mind). In academic circles this is as serious as the theft of any personal property.
Types of Plagiarism

- Turning in someone else's work as your own.
- Copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
- Re-wording or paraphrasing another’s words.
- Providing incorrect or misleading information about the source of a quotation.
When a citation is not needed

Common sense and ethics should determine your need for documenting sources. You do not need to give sources for familiar proverbs, well-known quotations or common knowledge.

What constitutes “common knowledge” depends on your familiarity with the subject. As you become increasingly familiar with the field, more and more becomes common knowledge.
Consequences of your actions: a charge of academic dishonesty!

Punishment can range from:

- Receiving a zero on the assignment
- Failing grade in the class
- In an extreme case, dismissal from the University for cheating

- The University has a Senate-approved policy on plagiarism.

http://www.ubishops.ca/administration/INTEGRIT.htm
To avoid a charge of plagiarism, use the correct citation style

MLA (Modern Language Association) Formatting and Citation Guide:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/

APA (American Psychological Association) Style Guide

Ask a Reference Librarian for assistance.