Plagiarism: how to avoid

What is plagiarism?[1] Here is a definition:

<u>Plagiarism</u> - the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas
and passing them off as one's own.

Remember when a teacher would say "Don't copy someone else's work"? This is the same idea, except for copying someone else's ideas.

Why should we care? There are several reasons:
- To make sure other people get the credit they deserve
- To respect other people's work, and the contribution they made to their field
- So we can track where ideas come from

Here's what you can ***do*** to properly use sources:
- Keep track of where you get your information
  - From different websites, books, articles, etc..
- Use a citation generator online to make our citations are properly formatted.
- Ask your teacher for help if you are not sure if something needs to be cited
  - It's better to be safe than sorry!

Here's what to ***avoid***:
- Copying what someone else says, word-for-word
  - Summarize what they say, or explain it in a different way
- Using sources that other people don't recognize
  - For example, using Kim Kardashian's knowledge about Pluto instead of relying on what scientists say about the erm, Planet?[2]

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[1] See https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/10-types-of-plagiarism.pdf for concrete examples.

[2] Pluto isn't a planet - the International Astronomers Union has said that the object isn't a planet. See https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/24/world/pluto-no-longer-planet-space-scn/index.html for an exclamation