AM I PLAGIARIZING?¹

- If you buy, steal, copy, or hire someone to write your paper you are guilty of plagiarism
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These are some of the most obvious examples of plagiarism—but there are other, more subtle forms of the practice that students must learn to avoid. While paraphrasing and summarizing is permissible, each source must be carefully documented, and each author credited with a citation.

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You need not cite,

- Your own experiences, observations, thoughts, insights, or conclusions
- The results you obtained through field work, lab work, or experiments
- Your own art, photography, video, etc.
- When you use “common knowledge” or generally accepted facts

How Do I decide if something is “common knowledge”?  
- The same information is documented in at least five credible sources  
- A person could easily find the information in general reference sources

When in doubt document your sources…it is better to err on the side of caution!!!

¹ All of the above information is taken from the OWL at Purdue Website.  
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource.