**Level One – Classroom**

[Scene opens to students chatting in classroom]

**Professor:** Attention class – let’s get started. I need to talk to you about your next assignment.

[a few groans from the students]

**Professor:** The main objective of this short research paper assignment is to understand how to correctly cite your sources. By “cite”, I mean I want to you to write down whose ideas or words you’re using and where you found the information. When you don’t cite, or give credit to, the sources of information you use in your paper, then plagiarism occurs.

**Student:** Plagiarism?

**Professor:** Basically, plagiarism happens when you use another person’s words or ideas without giving them credit in your work….this amounts to stealing or taking credit for something that’s not yours.

[Insert definitions here – instructor’s powerpoint. Read from slides in the dialogue below]

To avoid plagiarism, it’s important to either use quotation marks around the words of others or learn how to properly paraphrase their ideas. [Read the definition of Paraphrasing]

It’s also important to cite the author’s ideas throughout your paper and at the end of you paper in a works cited page. [Read the definition of In-text Citations and Works Cited]

Now…do you have to cite all information or ideas that are not yours? Not everything. There is one exception called common knowledge. [Read the definition of Common Knowledge]

Remember, this is your opportunity to learn and understand more about this important issue, so please ask questions and refer to your Syllabus for the definitions I just covered. Also listed is the Syllabus is the section of the UC Student Code of Conduct that outlines the penalties for Academic Dishonesty, which includes plagiarism. Depending on the severity of the academic misconduct, the penalties can range from a failing or altered grade to mandatory study classes on avoiding plagiarism to suspension or expulsion.

Finally, please choose a topic for your paper that relates to a career or job that interests you. You will need to send a topic statement to me via email before our next class meeting. You will also be responsible for handing in several drafts of your paper before handing in a final version.