

Good Scientific and Artistic Practice

for Bachelor's Degree Programmes

Quality Management, Evaluation & Reporting

October 2026

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www.tugraz.at/go/qm

Development and use of the teaching materials:

These sets of slides have been developed with the aim of teaching the fundamentals of good scientific and artistic practice at Graz University of Technology (TU Graz). This also includes inter-university degree programmes (including NAWI Graz programmes and teacher training programmes). The current version is aimed at students on Bachelor's programmes. Where identical content or the same visual material is used across different sets of slides, no reference is made to other sets of slides, but rather to the original source of the content or material used in each instance.

This applies equally to the English-language slide sets. These are, in principle, direct translations of the German-language versions and differ only in terms of the inclusion of, or references to, English-language information and source materials.

This teaching material will be piloted at TU Graz during the 2026/2027 academic year.

Licensing:

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Good Scientific and Artistic Practice (GSP) – Why Is This an Issue Today?



Fig. 1: Graffiti. Source: Own AI-generated figure, created by the author using the Academic AI Image Generator, 13.05.2026

The standards of good scientific practice ensure integrity, quality, and social responsibility in all phases of research (ÖAWI, 2026). From the very beginning of one's studies, they provide guidance for academic work and everyday student life.

What can you expect?

- Part 1: Fundamentals of Good Scientific and Artistic Practice (GSP)
- Part 2: Examples of GSP in the Context of Academic Work
- Part 3: Understanding and Avoiding Academic Misconduct
- Part 4: Appendix
 - Further Information, Sources, Licensing, AI Use, and Acknowledgements

Part 1:

Fundamentals of Good Scientific and Artistic Practice (GSP)

1.1 What Is GSP?

1.2 The Importance of GSP in Research and Academic Studies

1.3 The Four Principles of Scientific Integrity



Fig. 2: Magnifying Glass. Source: Own AI-generated figure, created by the author using the Academic AI Image Generator, 17.06.2026

1.1 What Is GSP? (1/2)

(ALLEA, 2023)

- Good Scientific and Artistic Practice:
 - Covers norms and standards for scientific work
 - Rules that support researchers and research institutions in addressing various challenges in the context of their work
 - Examples:
 - Citation of all sources used in a text
 - Transparent documentation of data analysis
 - Compliance with laboratory safety regulations
 - Storage of research data in accordance with statutory retention periods

1.1 What Is GSP? (2/2)

- Through 2024, standards for GSP were set primarily in guidelines and directives
- Starting in 2024, the regulation was incorporated into law:
 - Incorporation of GSP into the Higher Education Quality Assurance Act (§ 2a, HS-QSG, 2024)
 - Standardization of quality standards for all Austrian universities:
 - Research focused on gaining insights or generating knowledge
 - Research focused on expression and interpretation (or creative processes in research)

1.2 The Importance of GSP for Research and Academic Study (1/4)

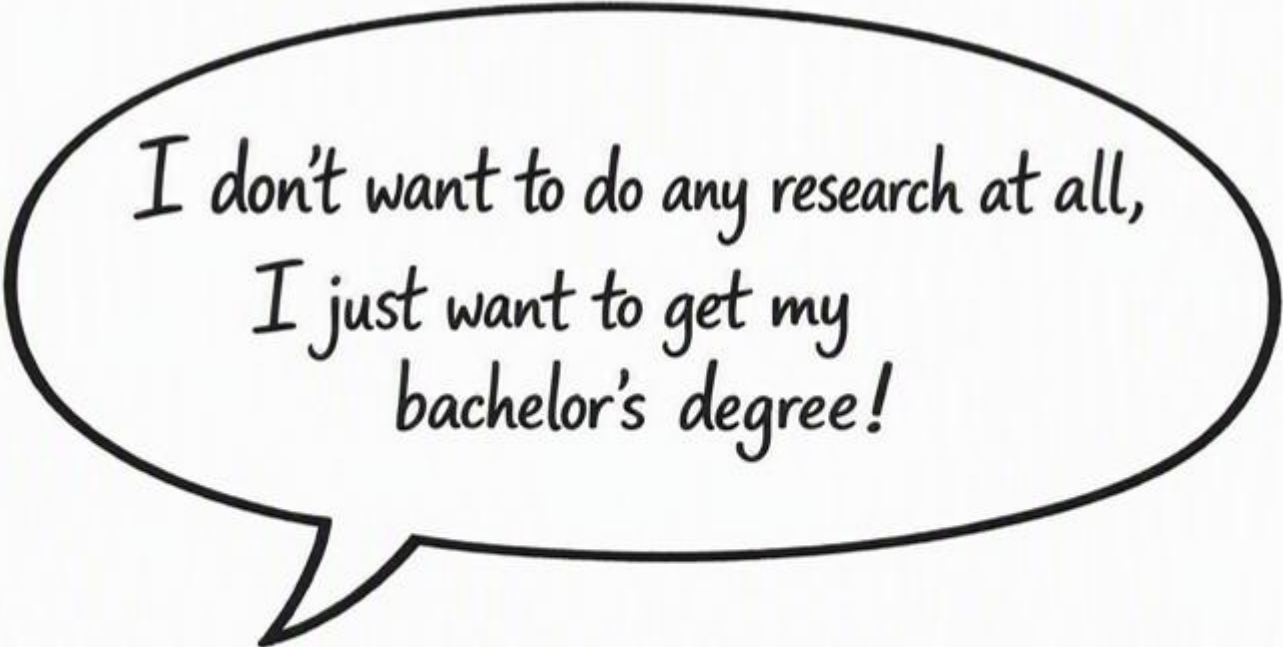
(BMBWF, 2019; ÖAWI, 2015; ÖAWI, 2026)

“The quality of research is a precious asset for every society.”

(ÖAWI, 2015, p. 3)

- Quality in research ensures that ...
 - the public can have confidence in scientific findings.
 - innovations can be built on reliably documented findings.
 - a high standard is set in education (= a guarantee of the quality of your education!)
 - your paper/thesis is credible.

1.2 The Importance of GSP for Research and Academic Study (2/4)



*I don't want to do any research at all,
I just want to get my
bachelor's degree!*

The bachelor's program is a standard university degree program that you complete with a thesis you write on your own! You will acquire foundational knowledge, and you are also responsible for applying it correctly.

1.2 The Importance of GSP for Research and Academic Study (3/4)

(BMBWF, 2017, 2019; UG, 2002)

- The higher the academic degree, the greater the scientific autonomy and responsibility for generating new knowledge

- Bachelor's Degree (BA): General Education Phase

- Providing a solid foundation in subject-specific knowledge and methodology



Taking responsibility for learning:
Mastering methods, citing, conducting
research with academic integrity

- Master's (MA): Advanced Studies
 - Teaching of in-depth theoretical knowledge
- Doctorate (Dr./PhD): Research Studies
 - Independent research, development of new scientific findings

1.2 The Importance of GSP for Research and Academic Study (4/4)

- Adherence to the GWP guidelines will support you in your studies (among other things) with regard to:
 - Thorough source research
 - Correct citation
 - Correct documentation
 - Identifying plagiarism
 - Knowing how you are permitted to use Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- And thus, in writing your own independent academic thesis!

1.3 The Four Principles of Scientific Integrity (1/4)

(ALLEA, 2023, p. 5)

- Adherence to the four principles essentially ensures compliance with GSP as well:

Reliability

Ensuring Quality of Research

Honesty

Communicating research in a transparent, fair, comprehensive, and unbiased manner

Respect

toward colleagues, research participants, test subjects, and society

Accountability

Responsibility for one's own research, from the initial idea to publication

1.3 The Four Principles of Scientific Integrity (2/4)

(ALLEA, 2023; Wrexham University, n.d.)

- Reliability:

By working carefully and accurately, you will acquire the skills that will be required of you throughout your studies and in your professional life. By taking a methodical approach and adhering to recognized standards, you will be able to produce compelling, high-quality results.

- Honesty:

By refraining from gaining any unfair advantages and instead working transparently and honestly, you strengthen your own credibility.

1.3 The Four Principles of Scientific Integrity (3/4)

(ALLEA, 2023; Wrexham University, n.d.)

- Respect:

By showing respect for the work of other researchers and citing your sources or acknowledging your colleagues, you avoid research misconduct and ensure that your work is transparent.

- Accountability:

You know what you have and haven't accomplished in your seminar paper or thesis. By presenting your work steps in writing or orally, you can credibly defend your approach—for example, during exams.

1.3 The four Principles of Scientific Integrity (4/4)

- Scientific integrity is (Wissenschaftsrat [German Science Council], 2015; ÖAWI, 2026):
 - A commitment to conducting research with diligence, honesty, respect, and responsibility
- GSP stands for (ALLEA, 2023):
 - Adherence to rules to ensure that research is reliable, honest, respectful, and responsible

*Scientific Integrity
= Attitude*

GSP = Behavior

Part 2:

Examples of GSP in the Context of Scholarly Work:

Explanation Based on the Four Principles of Scientific Integrity

2.1 Reliability

2.2 Honesty

2.3 Resect

2.4 Accountability

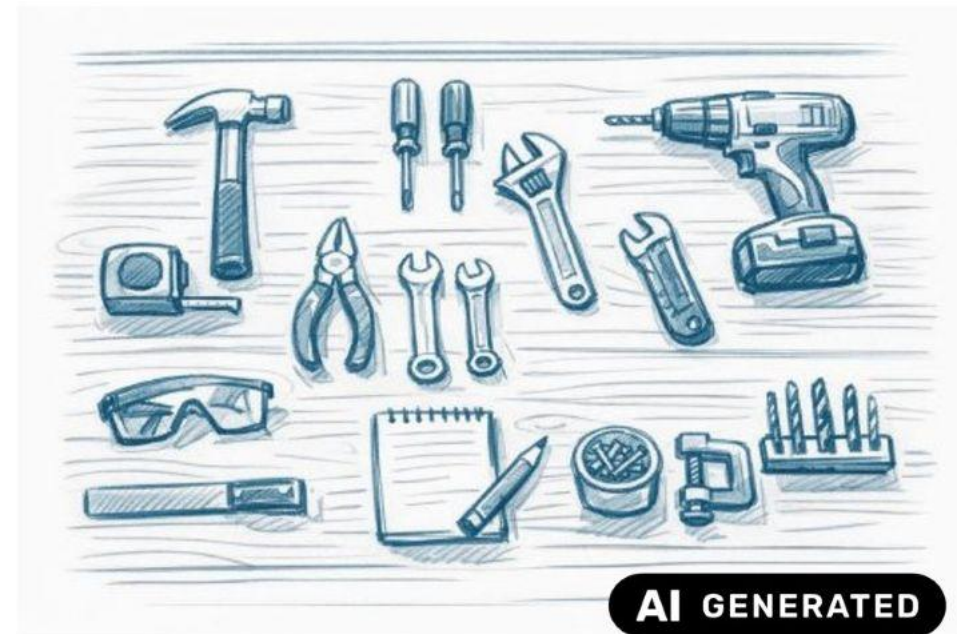


Fig 3: Work Desk. Source: Own AI-generated figure, created by the author using the Academic AI Image Generator, 25.06.2026

2.1 Reliability: Working with Sources (1/4)

- Sources for a text or academic paper include:
 - All information on which the authors of a text rely
 - Information can be derived from various types of sources, e.g.:
 - Scholarly literature (books, conference proceedings, academic journals), interviews, vlogs, plans, material samples
- Citing sources is an essential part of academic work
 - Academic research questions are based on theoretical assumptions that are either supported or challenged by sources (ÖAWI, 2015; Pears and Shields, 2022)
 - Important for the evaluation of seminar papers and theses!

2.1 Reliability: Working with Sources (2/4)

(ÖAWI, 2015; Pears and Shields, 2022)

- Sources must be cited in order to ...
 - distinguish between one's own contributions and ideas and those of others
 - clearly acknowledge the authorship of others and respect their scholarly contributions
 - demonstrate thorough research and familiarity with standard works in a discipline
 - enable readers to conduct their own research and reflect on the sources

2.1 Reliability: Working with Sources (3/4)

(Pears and Shields, 2022; Veith, 2022)

- A good source meets scientific credibility standards, i.e.:
 - The author is known
 - Objective reasoning, no personal opinions
 - Accurate presentation of theories and facts, proper citations
 - Correct and transparent use of methods
 - Peer-reviewed (evaluation by independent experts)
 - Relevance to the academic community
 - Published by a scientifically recognized publisher

2.1 Reliability: Working with Sources (4/4)

(Veith, 2022)

- Where can you find good sources?
 - Literature search via library catalogs
 - Free (online) access to a wide range of academic journals and books through the Graz University of Technology library
 - Literature databases (registration required for some!)
 - ResearchGate, Web of Science, Google Scholar, arXiv.org, ieeexplore.org
 - Technology Reviews
- (High-quality) doctoral dissertations usually contain the relevant standard literature in a given field

2.1 Reliability: Example for Working with Sources (1/3)

Imagine you want to cite specific facts about thermodynamics in your bachelor's thesis. Which source would you use, and why?

The textbook or the Wikipedia article?

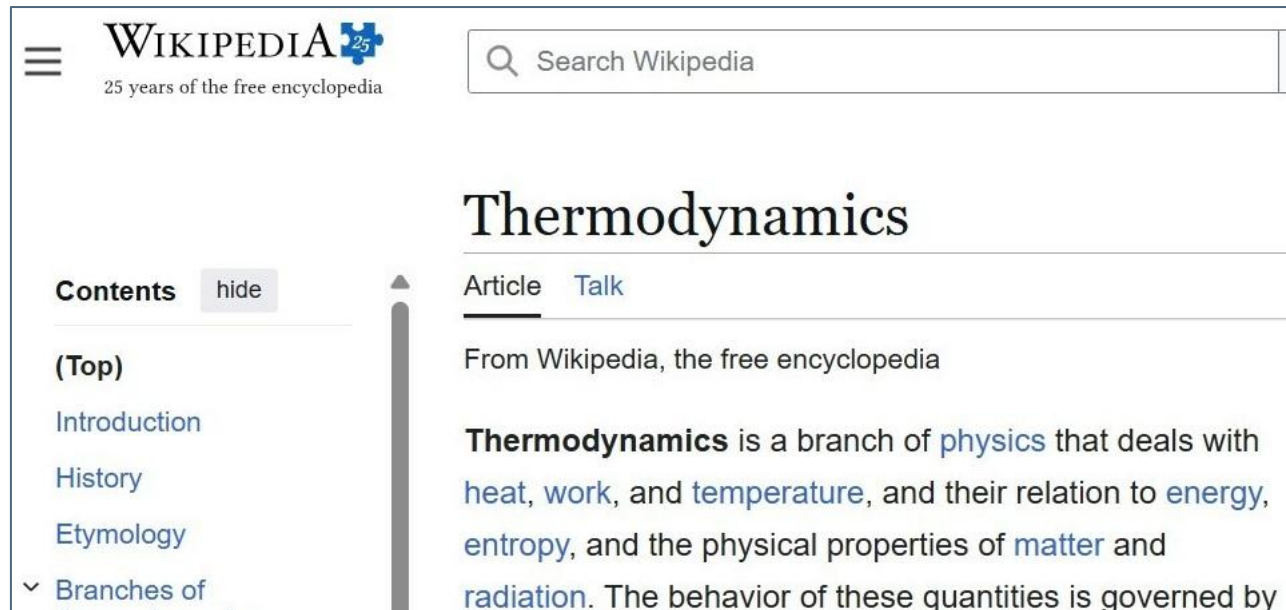


Fig. 4: Wikipedia – Thermodynamics

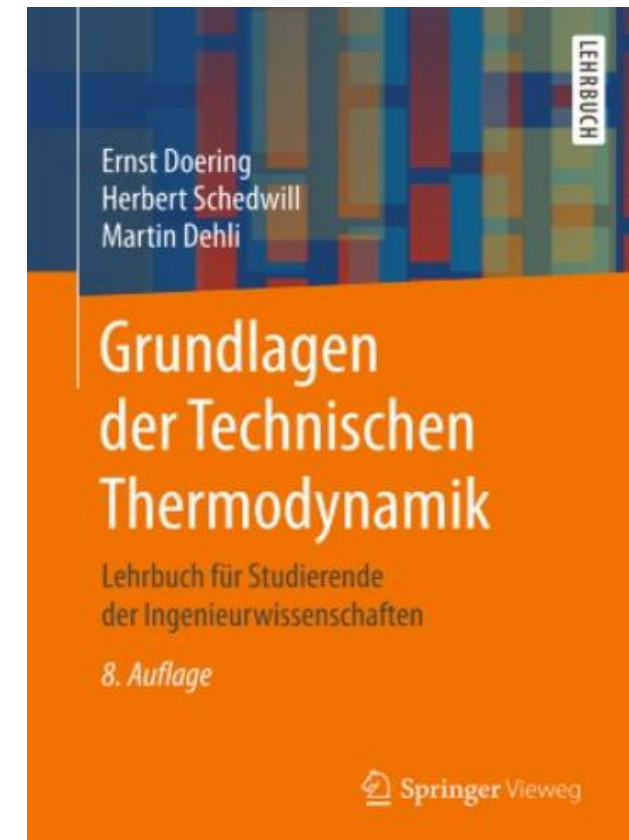


Fig. 5: Cover © Springer, textbook *Fundamentals of Thermodynamics* (2016). Used as a quotation in accordance with § 42f of the German Copyright Act (UrhG); not licensed under CC BY 4.0.

2.1 Reliability: Example for Working with Sources (2/3)

Which source would you use, and why?

- Criteria (APA, 2007; SpringerNature, 2026; Veith, 2022):
 - Textbook
 - Reputable publisher, verified information
 - Authors' reputation
 - Usually edited and peer-reviewed
- Citable, reputable source
- ... and available for you to download for free via the TU Library ;-)*



Fig. 5: Cover © Springer, textbook *Fundamentals of Thermodynamics* (2016). Used as a quotation in accordance with § 42f of the German Copyright Act (UrhG); not licensed under CC BY 4.0.

2.1 Reliability: Example of Working with Sources (3/3)

- Suppose you want to cite specific facts about thermodynamics in your bachelor's thesis. Which source would you use, and why?
 - Criteria (APA, 2010; Veith, 2022; Wikipedia, n.d.):
 - Online encyclopedia Wikipedia
 - Provides an overview of topics and corresponding standard literature
 - Entries are usually edited multiple times and are subject to change (version history available)
 - Editorially reviewed but not peer-reviewed, so incorrect content is possible
 - Authors and their sources are not always transparent
- Carefully check the quality of online encyclopedias! Wikipedia is suitable for orientation and literature searches, but not as scientific evidence!

2.1 Reliability: Proper Citation (1/8)

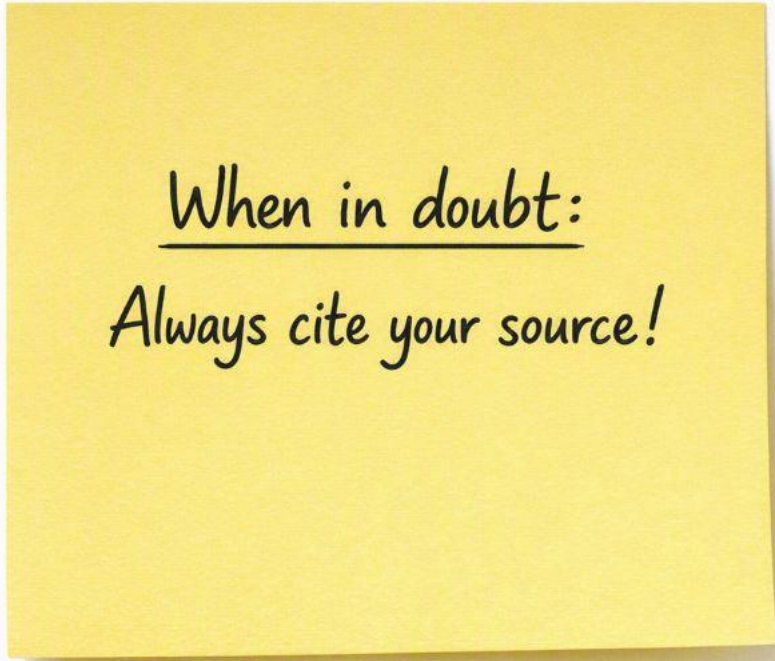
(Pears and Shields, 2022; Veith, 2022)

- Citing/Referencing in Written Works:
 - The sources used in the preparation of a text or academic paper must be cited in accordance with the rules of a citation style and for the purpose of verifiability
- What must be cited, and when?
 - In the body of the text, you must always cite a source to support any theory, idea, or research finding that is not your own!
 - Immediately after the mention or at the end of the sentence in which the content was cited
 - All sources cited in the text must be listed in full in the bibliography

2.1 Reliability: Proper Citation (2/8)

(Pears and Shields, 2022; Veith, 2022)

- What does not need to be cited?
 - Common knowledge, e.g.:
 - Water boils at +100°C
 - The capital of a country
- Knowledge that is widely accepted and generally known within the research community, e.g.:
 - In electrical engineering, that frequency is measured in hertz (Hz)
 - In computer science, what an algorithm is
 - In architecture, what a floor plan is

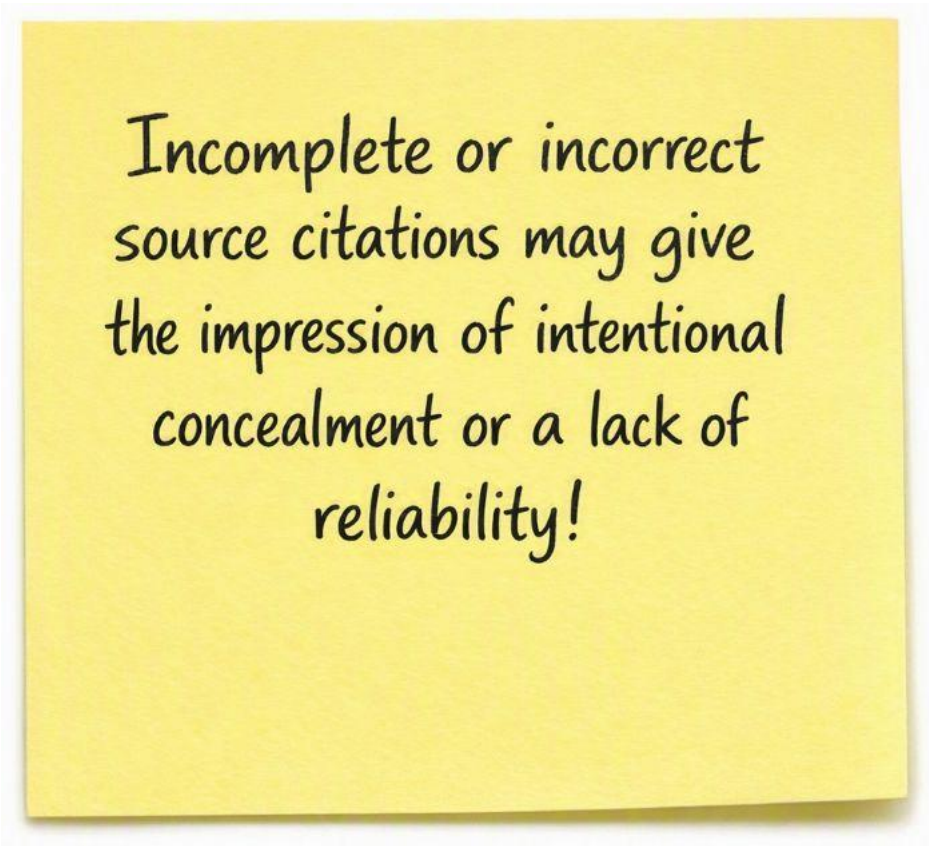


When in doubt:
Always cite your source!

2.1 Reliability: Proper Citation (3/8)

(Pears and Shields, 2022; Veith, 2022)

- As a general rule:
 - Cite all sources you use, including tables, translations, and figures (be sure to check the license!)
 - Follow the specified citation style and use only one citation style within a single paper or document (be consistent!)
 - The language used in the body text determines the language of the citation (*Pears und Shields* vs. *Pears and Shields*)!



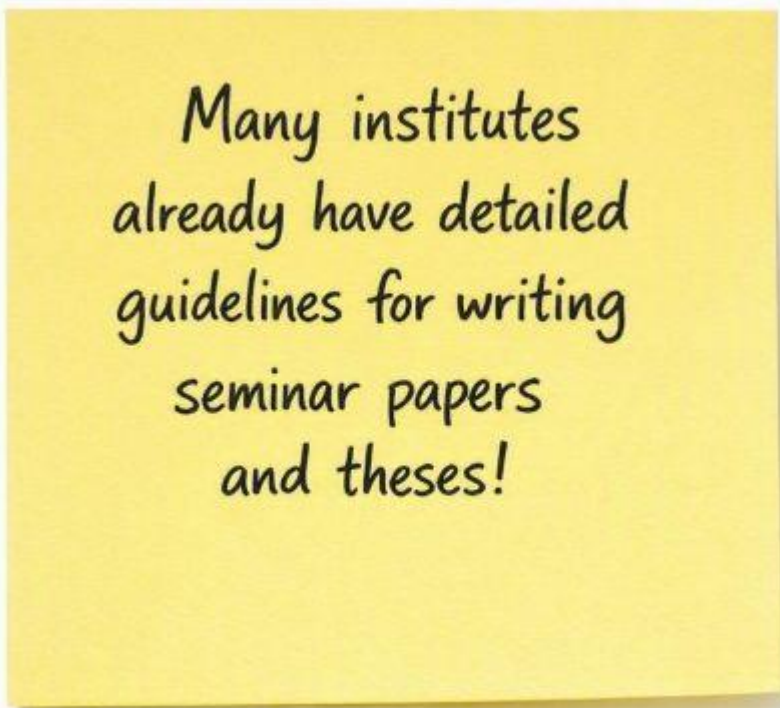
Incomplete or incorrect
source citations may give
the impression of intentional
concealment or a lack of
reliability!

2.1 Reliability: Proper Citation (4/8)

- Citation styles (citation guidelines) specify how different types of sources should be referenced in the body of the text and in the bibliography (Veith, 2022)
 - Examples of different media and types of academic sources:
 - Print media: books, academic journals, conference proceedings
 - Electronic media: e-books, PDF articles, websites
 - Interactive media: data portals
 - Audiovisual media: vlogs, interviews, lecture recordings
 - Physical objects: material samples
- Different citation styles are preferred depending on the field of study and research discipline

2.1 Reliability: Proper Citation (5/8)

- Common citation styles in the fields of engineering and the natural sciences include:
 - IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)
 - Harvard referencing style
 - Chicago
 - Vancouver
 - APA (American Psychological Association)
 - MLA (Modern Language Association)
 - DIN ISO 690



Many institutes
already have detailed
guidelines for writing
seminar papers
and theses!

2.1 Reliability: Proper Citation (6/8)

(Pears und Shields, 2022)

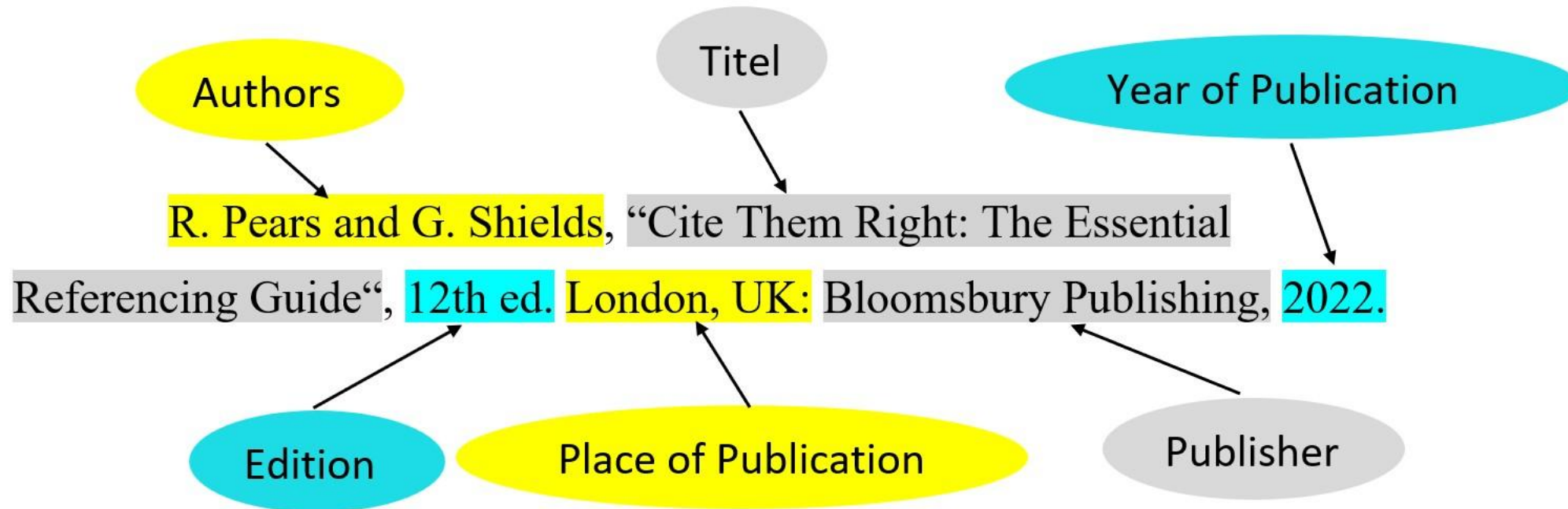
- The bibliographic components of a source include, among others:
 - Authors, title, editors, year of publication, publisher/place of publication, edition or issue number, page numbers, information on electronic availability
- Advantages of detailed source citations:
 - Quick identification of the source type and targeted further research
 - Enables assessment of the source's credibility and relevance to one's own work

The required components vary depending on the type of source and the medium being cited. The chosen citation style determines their order, highlighting, and formatting!

2.1 Reliability: Proper Citation (7/8)

(Pears und Shields, 2022)

- Component of a source:



2.1 Reliability: Proper Citation (8/8)

(Pears und Shields, 2022)

- The main differences in citing sources in the bibliography are:
 - Order and formatting of the components
 - Information on electronic availability
 - URL, DOI (Digital Object Identifier), or DOI as a link
 - A URL is not permanently valid and requires an access date
 - If available, the DOI should be preferred! A DOI serves to uniquely and permanently identify the source (International DOI Foundation, n.d.)
 - Bibliographic data formats (e.g., BibTeX) or reference management software (e.g., Citavi) support correct citation

2.1 Reliability: Examples for Citing (1/3)

(Pears und Shields, 2022)

- Harvard-style citation

- In the body of the text, the author(s) and year of publication are stated, e.g.,

The citation of sources follows a clear set of rules (Swales and Feak, 2012).

- In the reference list, sources are listed in alphabetical order, e. g.,

...

Pears, R. and Shields, G. (2023) *Cite Them Right: The Essential Referencing Guide*. 12th ed. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Swales, J. M. and Feak, C. B. (2012) *Academic Writing for Graduate Students*. 3rd ed. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.2173936>

...

2.1 Reliability: Examples for Citing (2/3)

(Pears und Shields, 2022)

- IEEE
 - In the running text, each source is assigned a number/reference number in the order in which it is cited; for example, [1] refers to the first source cited in the text:

The citation of sources follows a clear set of rules [1].

- In the reference list, entries are ordered by reference number:

[1] J. M. Swales and C. B. Feak, *Academic Writing for Graduate Students*, 3rd ed. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012. doi:10.3998/mpub.2173936

[2] ...

2.1 Reliability: Examples for Citing (3/3)

(Pears und Shields, 2022)

- Chicago-style citation
 - Sources are referenced in the body of the text using a reference symbol (usually a number), e.g.:
The citation of sources follows a clear set of rules¹.
 - The footnote appears at the bottom of the page, e.g.,
1) Swales, John M., and Feak, Christine B. 'Academic Writing for Graduate Students' (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012), 8.
 - In the bibliography, sources are listed in alphabetical order:
Swales, John M., and Feak, Christine B. *'Academic Writing for Graduate Students'*. 3rd ed. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012. <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.2173936>.

2.2 Honesty: Transparent Disclosure of the Use of AI (1/3)

- According to the Rector's Office guidelines, AI may be used in academic studies (TU Graz, 2023a)
 - The following generally applies:
 - The course instructor decides which tools are permitted in the course
 - Seminar papers and theses must be written by the student
 - The author of any text is responsible for the accuracy of its content
 - AI-based spelling, grammar, or translation programs are permitted (e.g., DeepL)
 - The use of AI in texts must be clearly indicated

2.2 Honesty: Transparent Disclosure of the Use of AI (2/3)

- As a general rule (TU Graz, 2023a):
 - AI tools are considered unauthorized aids in exams (unless expressly permitted)
- Please note that AI...
 - is not a reliable search engine for sources or literature
 - does not reliably recognize different citation styles
 - sometimes collects data about you even without your consent
 - will always provide an answer, which may be inaccurate (AI may generate hallucinated content)

2.2 Honesty: Transparent Disclosure of the Use of AI (3/3)

- Examples of AI use in academic studies (TU Graz, 2023a; 2023b):
 - Can you use a spell-checker to correct text you've written yourself?
→ YES! But you must indicate that AI was used:
 - Examples of in-text citations:
 - The tool “Grammarly” was used for linguistic optimization.
 - Grammarly was used to correct grammar and style. Changes to the content or phrasing were made exclusively by the author.
 - Example of citation in the reference list:
 - Grammarly (2026): Grammarly – AI Writing Assistance. Available at: <https://www.grammarly.com>. Accessed on June 1,

2.2 Honesty: Avoid Plagiarism (1/4)

- Plagiarism is:
 - “the complete or partial appropriation of texts, content, ideas, or artistic works that are presented as one’s own” (TU Graz, 2025a, p. 7, transl. by the Author)
- Plagiarism (TU Graz, 2025a) ...
 - constitutes gross academic misconduct
 - is fraud in terms of obtaining improper advantages
 - has consequences under academic regulations

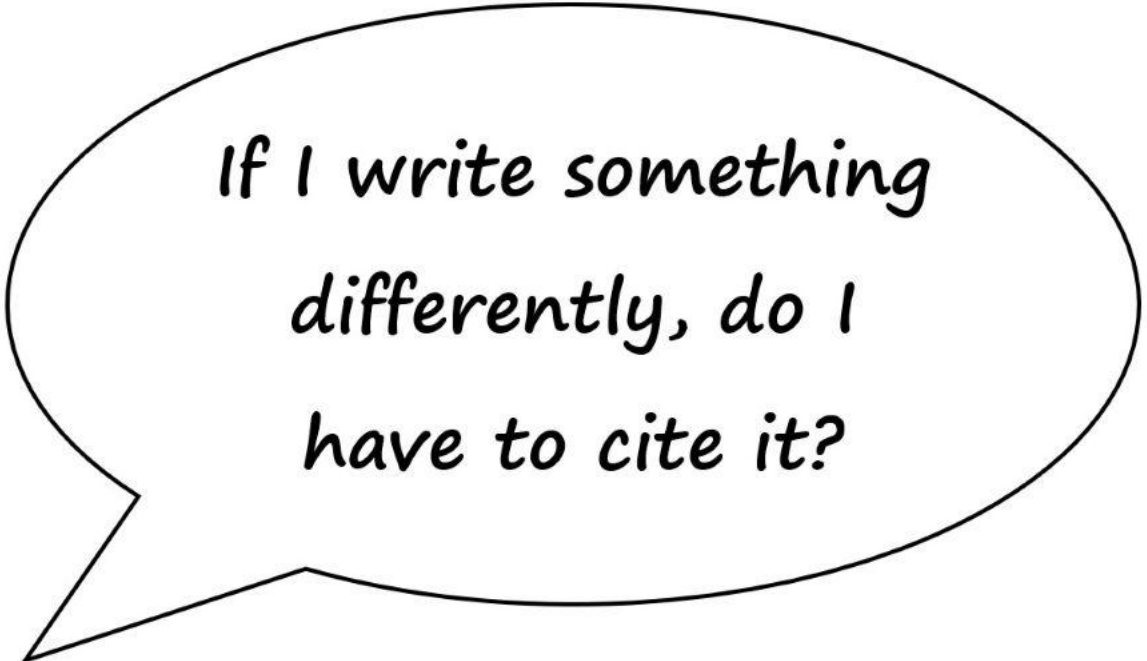
2.2 Honesty: Avoid Plagiarism (2/4)

- Plagiarism occurs when sources, for example ... (TU Graz, 2025a; UG 2002)
 - are missing
 - are incorrect, fabricated (or imagined)
 - do not clearly correspond to the text passage
- Plagiarism can be avoided by (Pears and Shields, 2022):
 - Citing all sources used (and thoroughly researched)
 - Documenting sources used (possibly using a reference management program)
 - Paraphrasing content correctly instead of copying it

2.2 Honesty: Avoid Plagiarism (3/4)

(Pears and Shields, 2022)

- Paraphrasing :
 - Is a fundamental component of academic writing
 - The content, theories, and findings of others are restated or summarized in one's own words
 - The source is cited!



If I write something differently, do I have to cite it?

If you use other people's ideas or insights in a modified form without giving credit (i.e. citing), that's plagiarism!

2.2 Honesty: Avoid Plagiarism (4/4)



- Plagiarism Check (or Similarity Check):
 - Check using software
 - Comparison for text similarities/text matches
- Similarity Check at Graz University of Technology (HTU TU Graz, 2023; TU Graz, 2025b)
 - Not mandatory for bachelor's theses; rather, it is at the discretion of the supervisor
 - Students may request a free Similarity Check for their work three times per semester (HTU TU Graz, 2023)
 - No indexing: Data is not used for comparisons in future checks

2.3 Respect: Intellectual property of others (1/2)

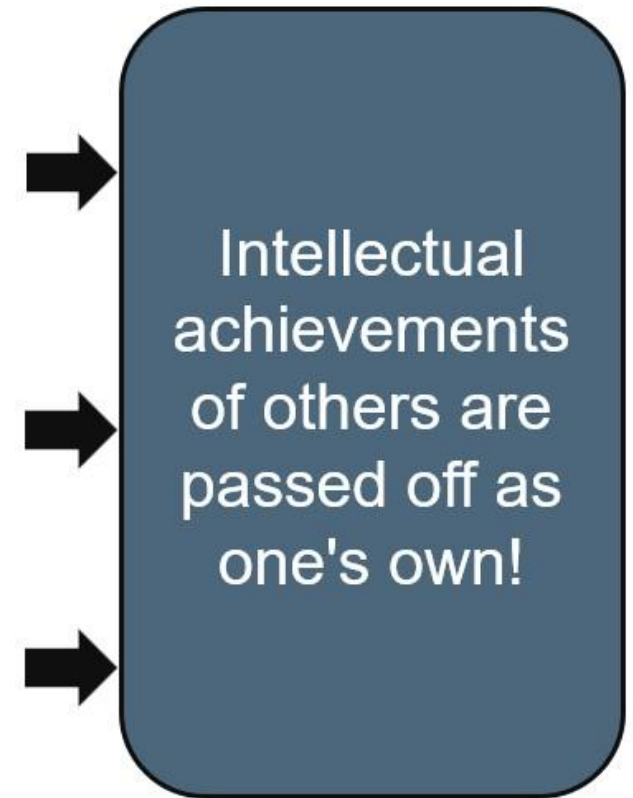
- Plagiarism also includes:
 - Theft of intellectual property
 - Copyright infringement
 - A sign of a lack of respect for the work of others



Fig. 6: Illustration Similarity Check. Source: VroniPlag

2.3 Respect: Intellectual property of others (2/2)

- Different types of plagiarism (Hagenström, 2022), for example:
 - Verbatim plagiarism:
 - Copying entire sentences from a source without clearly attributing them (missing or unclear citation) to a specific passage in the text.
 - Disguised plagiarism:
 - Text is rephrased without citing the source.
 - Translation plagiarism:
 - A text in a foreign language is translated and reproduced without citing the source.



2.2 Respect: Avoid Plagiarism – Example for Paraphrasing (1/3)

Below you will find the original text, followed by a paraphrase of it. Compare the two paragraphs: Is this a successful paraphrase or is it plagiarism?

Original Text (ÖAWI, 2015, p. 5)

All persons involved in research are to observe the Standards of Good Scientific Practice applicable to their respective fields, to investigate and settle any doubts as to the applicable standards, to avoid research misconduct and to immediately remedy any misconduct detected.

Paraphrase 1:

Any questions about how the Standards of Good Scientific Practice should be interpreted must be clarified before research begins, and these standards are to be followed throughout all research activities (ÖAWI, 2015). Misconduct is not permitted, and any violations that are discovered must be corrected without delay.

Paraphrase 2:

All persons involved in research are to observe the Standards of Good Scientific Practice applicable to their respective fields, to investigate and settle any doubts as to the applicable standards, to avoid research misconduct and to immediately remedy any misconduct detected.

2.2 Respect: Avoid Plagiarism – Example for Paraphrasing (2/3)

- Comparison:
 - Few identical terms, different style, but the core message remains the same; source is clearly cited.
 - Well-done paraphrase, no plagiarism!

- Original Text: (ÖAWI, 2015, p. 5)

All persons involved in research are to observe the Standards of Good Scientific Practice applicable to their respective fields, to investigate and settle any doubts as to the applicable standards, to avoid research misconduct and to immediately remedy any misconduct detected.

- Paraphrase 1:

Any questions about how the Standards of Good Scientific Practice should be interpreted must be clarified before research begins, and these standards are to be followed throughout all research activities (ÖAWI, 2015). Misconduct is not permitted, and any violations that are discovered must be corrected without delay.

2.2 Respect: Avoid Plagiarism – Example for Paraphrasing (3/3)

- Comparison:
 - high degree of similarity in the text; structure, semantic sequence, and wording in both sentences are very similar—requirements for paraphrase according to GSP standards are not met!
 - If no source is cited -> clear plagiarism!
 - If the source is cited -> classified as borderline plagiarism or plagiarism!

- Original Text: ÖAWI, 2015, p. 5

All persons involved in research are to observe the Standards of Good Scientific Practice applicable to their respective fields, to investigate and settle any doubts as to the applicable standards, to avoid research misconduct and to immediately remedy any misconduct detected.

- Paraphrase 2:

Every person engaged in research is required to observe the Standards of Good Scientific Practice relevant to their field, to investigate and settle any doubts regarding these standards, to prevent research misconduct, and promptly respond when misconduct becomes detected (ÖAWI, 2025).

2.3 Respect for colleagues and researchers and their work

- Fair Citation of Others' Work (BMBWF, 2020; ÖAWI, 2026; TU Graz, 2025a):
 - Cite all publications/sources that supported your work
 - Cite all individuals who made a substantive contribution to a research project (This also applies to group projects during your studies)
 - Individuals who did not make a direct contribution may be mentioned in an acknowledgment
- Respect in collaboration (ALLEA, 2023):
 - Collegiality, e.g., fair distribution of work packages in group projects (during your studies) or in collaborative efforts

2.4 Accountability: Responsibility in your Studies (ALLEA, 2023)

(ALLEA, 2023)

- Personal Responsibility for Academic Progress and Success:
 - Take the initiative to familiarize yourself with
 - Course requirements
 - Criteria for performance evaluation
 - Existing guidelines for writing (thesis) papers

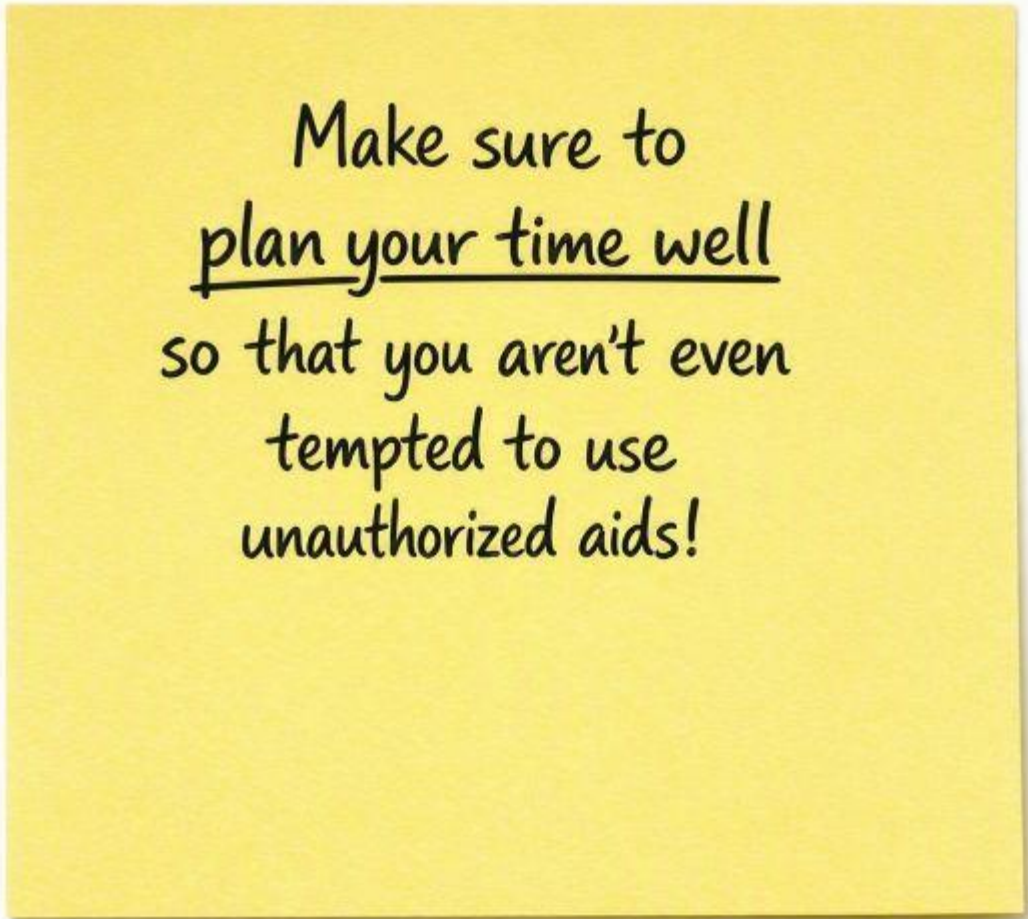


Read your
institute's
guidelines!

2.4 Accountability: Responsibility in your Studies

(ALLEA, 2023)

- Personal Responsibility for your work from the initial idea through to publication:
 - Responsibility for carrying out the work (including supervised work)
 - Responsibility for the quality of sources
 - Storage and retention of research data
 - Transparent documentation of your work steps



Make sure to
plan your time well
so that you aren't even
tempted to use
unauthorized aids!

Part 3:

Violations of the GSP and Prevention of Scientific Misconduct

- 3.1 Definition of Research Misconduct
- 3.2 Academic Misconduct During Studies

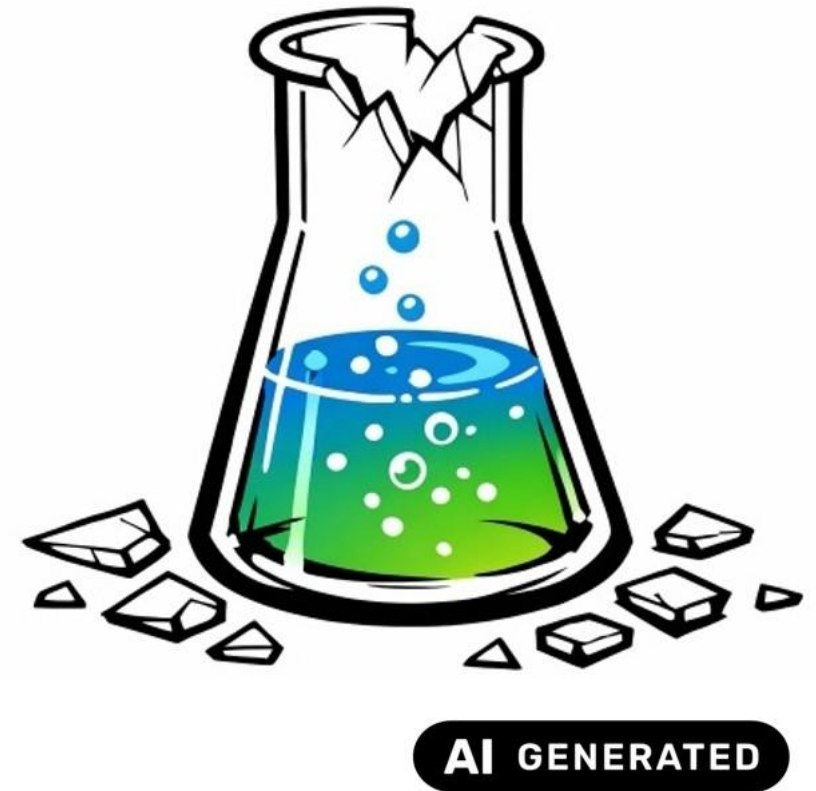


Fig. 7: Laboratory Glass. Source: Own AI-generated figure, created by the author using the Academic AI Image Generator 25.06.2026

3.1 Definition of Research Misconduct (1/2)

- Violation of the GSP (BM:BWF, 2020)
 - Generally, anything that does not comply with the GWP
- Scientific misconduct (HS-QSG, 2024; TU Graz, 2025a):
 - Occurs when the GSP guidelines are violated intentionally or through gross negligence

Both can have significant consequences, depending on the severity of the violation or misconduct!

3.1 Definition of Research Misconduct (2/2)

(HS-QSG, 2024; TU Graz, 2025a)

- Intentional:
 - A violation of standards of good scientific and artistic practice is at least considered possible and is accepted
- Gross negligence:
 - A violation of standards of good scientific and artistic practice resulting from a failure to exercise care, and a failure to recognize that the corresponding standards are thereby being violated



Abb. 8: Bicycles parked in a no-parking zone. Own Photo, Bicycles on Morellenfeldgasse Graz

3.2 Academic Misconduct During Studies: Examples

(Pears and Shields, 2022; TU Graz, 2025a)

- Use of Unauthorized Aids During Exams
- Plagiarism, e.g.:
 - Copying from classmates (without attribution)
 - Passing off collaborative work as one's own
 - Copying from sources without proper citation
- Unauthorized use of AI
- Fabricating data
- Submitting work under someone else's identity
- Ghost writing (contract cheating)

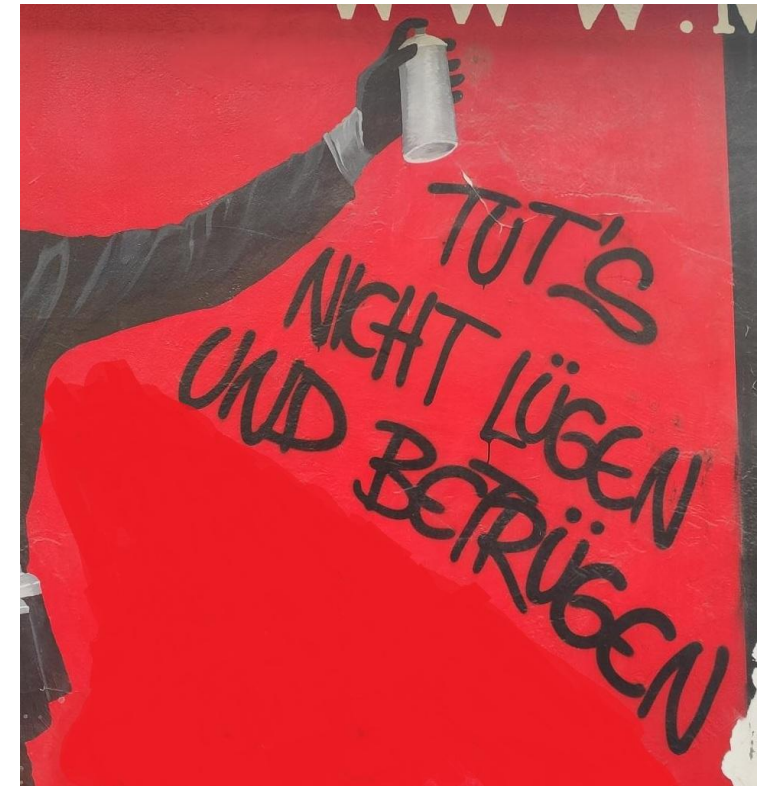


Fig. 9: Graffiti "Do not lie and cheat" (adaptation of the original). Own Photograph, Feuerbachgasse Graz

3.2 Academic Misconduct During Studies: Consequences

(TU Graz, 2025a)

- Consequences depend on:
 - The severity of the misconduct (“Materiality for the Overall Performance,” Graz University of Technology, 2025a, p. 7)
 - The type of work (written exam, thesis, etc.) in which the misconduct occurred
 - You will always lose time and forfeit your personal credibility and integrity!
- Examples:
 - Misconduct in written exams: Grading with “Invalid/Cheating” and loss of the opportunity to take the exam
 - Serious misconduct (e.g., plagiarism): Suspension from studies for two semesters (!), failing grade for the work, loss of the thesis advisor for theses
 - Revocation of the degree if misconduct is discovered after graduation

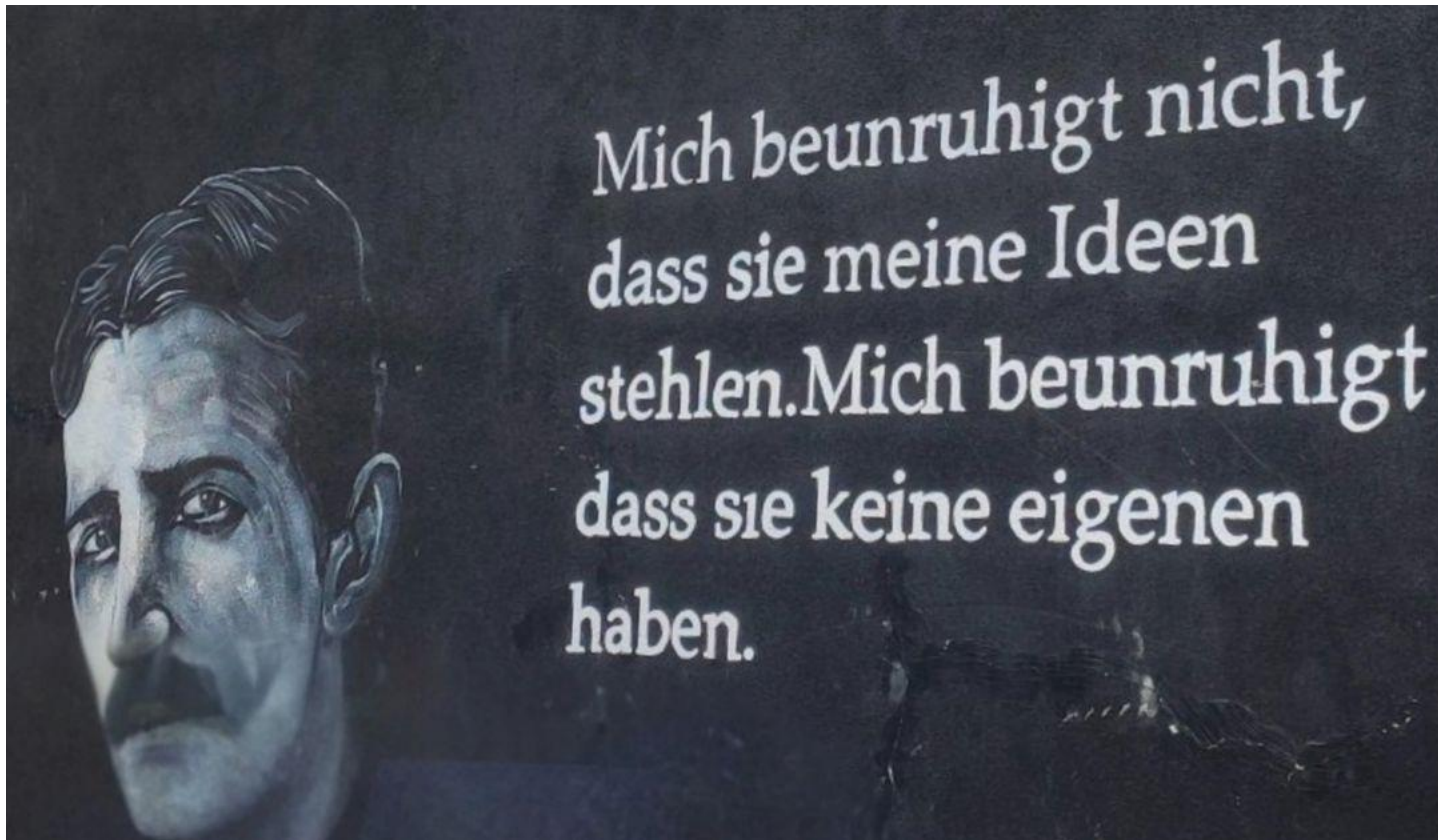
3.2 Academic Misconduct During Studies: How to avoid

(Spark at York University, 2013)

- Before submitting a written assignment, ask yourself...

1. Have you written your paper in your own words?
2. Have you read and understood all the sources used in your paper?
3. Have you clearly and correctly cited all the information and sources used, and have you used them appropriately?
4. When incorporating your own previous work (e.g., from other courses), have you also cited yourself?
5. Have you saved previous versions of the paper to be able to prove that it is your own work?

Best Luck with Your Studies!



“It doesn't worry me that they're stealing my ideas. What worries me is that they don't have any of their own.” (trans. by the Author)

Nikola Tesla (1856–1943) studied in Graz from 1875 to 1877.

The world is waiting for your ideas - make the most of your studies - *and play fair ;-)*

Fig. 10: Graffiti “Nikola Tesla” (adaptation of the original). Own photograph, Feuerbachgasse, Graz

Part 4: Appendix (1/13)

- 4.1 Further Information for Students of Graz University of Technology:
 - TU4U Information Pages
 - Graz University of Technology (TU Graz) Bylaws: Scientific and Artistic Integrity (Satzungsteil) [Satzungsteil Wissenschaftliche und Künstlerische Integrität – 12/2025](#)
 - Information and FAQs [Bachelor Paper](#)
 - [AI Guide for Researchers at TU Graz](#) from the Rector's Office
 - [Guideline for the use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)-supported tools in the field of teaching](#)
 - Examples on how to Cite AI use [Zitiervorschlag AI](#)
 - [Graduation Support](#)
 - [Ethics Compass](#) of Graz University of Technology
 - HTU TU Graz [Similarity-Check](#)

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- 4.1 Further Information for Students of Graz University of Technology:
 - Services of Library and Archives
 - [The Library's Website](#)
 - [Events](#)
 - [Search Portals](#)
 - Overview [Reference Management](#)
 - [Languages, Key Competencies and In-House Training](#)
 - [Key Competencies](#) for Students
 - [Learning Languages](#) for Students
 - Commission for Scientific Integrity (CSI)
 - [Point of contact for reporting suspected research misconduct](#)

Part 4: Appendix (3/13)

- 4.1 Further Information for Students of Graz University of Technology:
 - Research Data Management (RDM) at TU Graz
 - [Guidelines on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice](#) (GSP)
 - § 5 – Preservation of research data
 - Work in accordance with legal regulations & ethical standards
 - Clear & traceable documentation
 - Subject results to critical review
 - Public nature of basic research
 - Want to know more?
 - Contact Data Stewards: <https://rdm.tugraz.at>, rdmteam@tugraz.at

Part 4: Appendix (4/13)

- 4.1 Further Information for Students of Graz University of Technology:
 - Research Data Management (RDM) & FAIR Principles
 - TU Graz RDM Services
 - <https://rdm.tugraz.at/dashboard>
 - [Inhouse Training – Course Offer](#)
 - Secure Data Storage
 - [TU Graz Cloud](#)
 - [FTP Storage](#)
 - [Network Storage](#)
 - Digital Documentation & Metadata
 - [eLabFTW](#)
 - [GITlab](#)

Part 4: Appendix (5/13)

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■ 4.3 List of Figures

- Fig. 1: Graffiti (AI-generated image created by the author using the Academic AI Image Generator, May 13, 2026).
- Fig. 2: Magnifying glass (AI-generated image created by the author using the Academic AI Image Generator, June 17, 2026).
- Fig. 3: Workbench (AI-generated image created by the author using the Academic AI Image Generator, June 25, 2026).
- Fig. 4: Screenshot: Wikipedia article on thermodynamics (Wikipedia, n.d.), available at: <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thermodynamik> (Accessed: June 24, 2026).
- Fig. 5: Cover © Springer, textbook *Fundamentals of Thermodynamics* (2016). Used as a quotation in accordance with § 42f of the German Copyright Act (UrhG); not licensed under CC BY 4.0.
- Fig. 6: Illustration of plagiarism check. Wikipedia: GuttenPlag Wiki. Available at: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/GuttenPlag_Wiki (Accessed April 9, 2026)
- Fig. 7: Broken laboratory glassware (original AI-generated image, created by the author using the Academic AI Image Generator, June 25, 2026)
- Fig. 8: No-parking sign for bicycles on Morellenfeldgasse, Graz. (Photo: Sigrid Hackl-Wimmer, May 20, 2026).
- Fig. 9: Graffiti reading “Tuts nicht lügen [Don’t lie]” (own adaptation of the original: a section of the original selectively highlighted) on Feuerbachgasse, Graz. Artist: Mario Paukovic (Photo: Sigrid Hackl-Wimmer on May 22, 2026).
- Fig. 10: Graffiti “Nikola Tesla” (own adaptation of the original: retouching for improved visibility) on Feuerbachgasse in Graz. Artist: Mario Paukovic (Photo: Sigrid Hackl-Wimmer on May 22, 2026).

Part 4: Appendix (9/13)

■ 4.4 Licensing

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Part 4: Appendix (10/13)

- 4.5 AI Use
 - AI Use in this document
 - Text and accessible design: M365 Copilot and GPT-5 were used to correct style, shorten text and ensure accessible design. All decisions regarding content and changes to content, as well as word choice and rewording, were made exclusively by the author.
 - Self-generated images and text visualizations were created using Academic AI (Graz University of Technology).
 - DeepL (2026) was used to support translation and to check for grammar and style. Changes to the content or phrasing were made exclusively by the author.

Part 4: Appendix (11/13)

- 4.5 AI Use: Prompts (transl. by Author)
 - Self-generated images were created using Academic AI (TU Graz):
 - Academic AI, prompt dated 13 May 2026: “Depict the slogan ‘Every game has rules. Master the rules, win the game!’ as a piece of wall graffiti. Use bright colours. The lettering should be very legible (semi-wildstyle). The lettering should not be on a single line, but should span at least three lines. The graffiti should consist solely of the lettering.” Used to create “Fig. 1: Graffiti”.
 - Academic AI, prompt dated 17 June 2026: “Depict, schematically, a sheet of paper with writing on it being examined through a magnifying glass. The characters should only be hinted at; no actual letters should be recognizable.” Used to create “Fig. 2: Magnifying glass”.
 - Academic AI, prompt dated 25 June 2026: “Depict a broken, upright laboratory glass or flask. It should be a schematic representation, but the contents of the glass may be coloured. The shards lying around should be similar in size and shape to the broken shards.” Used to create “Fig. 7: Broken laboratory glassware”.
 - Academic AI, prompt from June 26, 2026: “Draw a schematic representation of a workbench on which various tools and implements are carefully arranged. It should be clearly evident that this is a fictional/naturalistic depiction and not a realistic one. It should be soft-focused, like a sketch with minimal color (only dark blue and teal), and no more than 15 tools should be depicted. Only the workbench should be shown from a top-down view; no tools should be hanging on the wall!” Used to create “Fig. 3: Work Desk.”

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- 4.5 Use of AI: Prompts (transl. by Author)
 - text visualizations were created using Academic AI (Graz University of Technology).
 - Academic AI, prompt dated 15 May 2026: “The image should look like a yellow Post-it note. Write the following text on it in clearly legible handwriting: ‘Academic integrity = attitude’ and, below that, ‘GWP = behaviour!’ The text should be centred and large enough to fill the entire Post-it note.” Visual representation of the text on the Post-it note.
 - Academic AI, prompt dated 20 May 2026: “The image should look like a yellow Post-it note. Write the following text on it in clearly legible handwriting: ‘A great many institutions already have detailed guidelines for writing seminar papers and dissertations!’ The text should be large enough to fill the entire Post-it note.” Visual representation of the text on the Post-it note.
 - Academic AI, prompt dated 27 May 2026: “The image should look like a yellow Post-it note. Write the following text on it in clearly legible handwriting: ‘Incomplete or incorrect references may give the impression of deliberate concealment or a lack of diligence!’ Do not underline anything; centre the text.” Visual representation of the text on the Post-it note.
 - Academic AI, Prompt vom 02.06.2026: „The image should look like a yellow Post-it note. Write the following text on it in clearly legible handwriting: ‘Incomplete or incorrect references may give the impression of deliberate concealment or a lack of diligence!’ Do not underline anything; centre the text: „When in doubt: Always cite your source!“ Bitte unterstreiche nur “When in doubt“, zentriere den Text.“Visual representation of the text on the Post-it note.
 - Academic AI, prompt dated 8 June 2026: “The image should look like a yellow Post-it note. Write the following text on it in clearly legible handwriting: ‘Read your department’s guidelines!’ Underline ‘Read’. Visual representation of the text on the Post-it note.
 - Academic AI, prompt dated 17 June 2026: “The image should look like a yellow Post-it note. Write the following text on it in clearly legible handwriting: ‘Make sure, through good time management, that you are not even tempted to use unauthorised aids!’ Underline ‘not even’.” Visual representation of the text on the Post-it note.

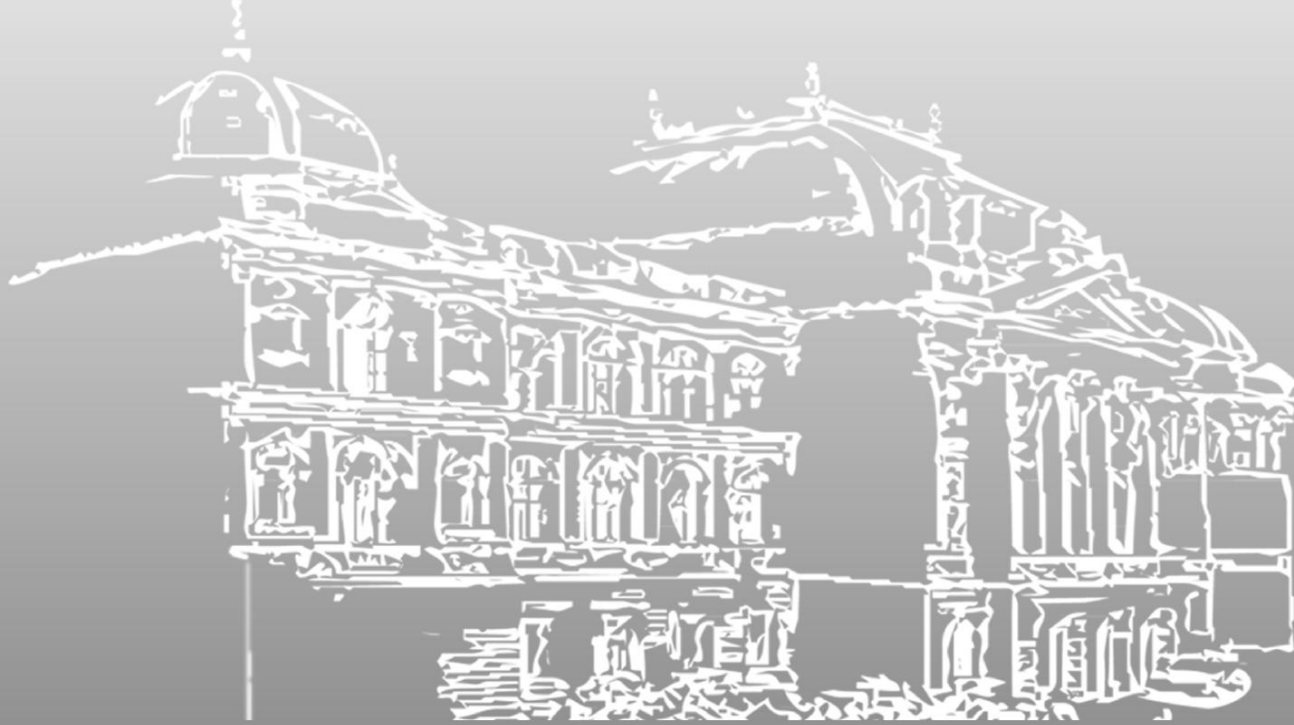
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