Plagiarism Statement to include in syllabi  
for ESL 051 and 052

It is very important for you to do your own writing in class or for homework. Most of the time you must use your own phrases and sentences in your writing. Sometimes you may use phrases and sentences that are not your words, but you must know the correct punctuation that says, "These are not my words." This is a special writing technique that involves making a special decision to use someone else’s writing. We will learn this technique and decision-making in our class this quarter.

Unless you use the correct method and punctuation, do not use phrases or sentences from your textbook, the internet, a tutor, or your friends. Do not copy another student's homework. Do not ask someone to do your homework for you. Do not ask someone to do your writing for you. It is very important for your English learning and improvement to do your own homework and use your own phrases and sentences.

When you take phrases or sentences from books or another person's writing and use them in your own writing, you must use quotation marks around these phrases or sentences. If you do not use quotation marks, your action is called plagiarism and it is illegal. Plagiarism has very serious consequences such as inhibiting your learning, causing a zero grade, and in some cases, getting expelled from college.

In class, we will discuss how to avoid plagiarism, how and when to make a decision to use sentences that are not your own for a good writing technique, and how to use quotation marks.

By Sharon Kita, Nov. '02