The problem

Plagiarism occurs because students have insufficiently developed their writing skills.

The solution

Writing well involves skills that you can learn and develop throughout university.

A few tips to get you started:

- Come to The Learning Centre to see a Writing Assistant or attend a writing workshop.
- Organise yourself well enough so that you are able to spend time re-writing and editing your draft.
- Instead of using quotations, practice expressing information or ideas in your own words. This demonstrates that you have understood, and are able to interpret it.
- Look at the way in which writers in your discipline use language and try to emulate them.
- Learn to use the specialised language of your field correctly.
- Try to vary your expression. For instance, don’t use ‘however’ every time you use a transition signal.
- Write using a dictionary and a thesaurus.
- Learn how to write well constructed paragraphs. (see Five Steps to Better Paragraphs)
- Develop your skills.

See next: Exercise - Using Academic Language