Sample Plagiarism Statement:

It is very important for you to understand the rules regarding plagiarism that apply in college. These rules are often very different from what was acceptable in high school.

Mt.SAC policy defines plagiarism as “a direct violation of intellectual and academic honesty. Although it exists in many forms, all plagiarism refers to the same act: *representing somebody else’s words or ideas as one’s own*” (Mt.SAC College Catalog). This can take the form of taking material from other sources, including the Internet, and deliberately failing to give credit in your paper to the original source. It can also involve improper use of citation and documentation in a way that constitutes plagiarism, even though unintended. Plagiarism is a very serious violation of academic rules. It can constitute grounds for a failing grade, probation, suspension, or even expulsion from the College. Therefore, it is very important that you understand how to properly document sources in your paper.

In addition to our class discussion of this issue, the Writing Center and the College Library offer free workshops to help students properly quote, paraphrase and document sources. Students can sign up for these workshops at the Writing Center (26B-1561, behind the clock tower); more information about these workshops is also available at the Writing Center’s website, http://writingcenter.mtsac.edu.