



## UCD School of Politics and International Relations

### Plagiarism: An Example

Original text:

From James Fitzjames Stephen to the present day, Mill's critics have insisted that a sphere of self-regarding actions that affect only (or even primarily) the agent himself either does not exist, or is small and trivial.

First example of plagiarism (unacknowledged quotation):

One of the most common criticisms of Mill is that the sphere of self-regarding actions that affect only (or even primarily) the agent himself either does not exist, or is too small to matter.

Not plagiarism (source quoted and acknowledged):

One of the most common criticisms of Mill is that the 'sphere of self-regarding actions that affect only (or even primarily) the agent himself either does not exist, or is too small and trivial' (Gray 1991: xvii).

Second example of plagiarism (unacknowledged source of ideas):

One of the most common criticisms of Mill is that either there are no self-regarding actions, i.e. actions that affect only or primarily the agent himself, or there are too few to matter.

Not plagiarism (source cited):

One of the most common criticisms of Mill is that either there are no self-regarding actions, i.e. actions that affect only or primarily the agent himself, or there are too few to matter (Gray 1991: xvii).

*entry in bibliography:*

Gray, John (1991) 'Introduction', in J. S. Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays* ed. John Gray (Oxford: Oxford University Press), pp. vii-xxx.