

# People things away from the person who

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People with integrity are people who are not afraid to speak from their heart and mind based on their experiences and the knowledge they have gained through those experiences. The only person that can speak of those experiences from your view and from your perspective, is you! There is no reason to deny the world around you your story.

The story in which only you can tell. Only you have the true and honest details of the journey that you are on. It is important as a person of integrity to present your original work without taking ideas or words from any one else. Having integrity, is to showcase yourself as the honest and genuine person that you are; someone who is confident and proud of their writing and their original ideas. The world does not want to hear another story that they have already heard.

The world wants to hear a story that is unique to you and only you and that is what makes it different and engaging. Taking words and ideas from someone else is wrong and looked down upon. It is stealing! It is plagiarism!

Presenting a story that is not yours to tell not only hurts you but others that you have engaged. When you pass ideas or words on as your own when they are not you gain respect, credit, and even financial gain that is not rightfully yours to gain. You are taking these things away from the person who deserves them; for their original work that they have put forth. It is not easy to regain the respects of class mates, colleagues, and the world around you when you have come across as a fraud and as someone who has stolen others hard work for their own gain.

I know that I only have one story to tell and that is my story! No one else has walked in my shoes, no one else has seen through my eyes, and no one else has my perspective! New, fresh, and original ideas are what make this world go around and success possible for any one willing to share their own ideas. If we did not encourage and promote integrity then our world would lack creativity, ingenuity, imagination, cleverness and the pursuit of success through these avenues. Tell your story it is much more interesting than you think.

Use it as a teaching moment and to teach others. Life is full of teaching moments and this has been a teaching moment for me. I was unaware and had not heard of “ self-plagiarism”. The ideas that I have set forth are my original ideas and an important part of my bio and my story.

I thought these words could be used to my liking since they were indeed my own words to tell. I now know differently and have more knowledge going forward to help me in becoming a better writer and better student.