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**Chapter Case**

Chapter 17 Ethical Issues in Information Technology

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# Chapter 17 Ethical Issues in Information Technology

## Allison’s report: To plagiarize or not to plagiarize

Allison had just finished reading Romeo and Juliet, a tragedy written by William Shakespeare, as part of an assignment for her 4th period reading class. She was required to write a 2-page report that summarized what she had learned from reading the novel and provide examples of how the story had been reproduced or adapted in modern films.

Allison opened up the Google search engine on her laptop and searched for “Romeo and Juliet in modern films.” To her surprise, over 5 million results were estimated in the search results. As she read through many of the web pages, she realized that the topic was overwhelming. So many films had been adapted from themes written by Shakespeare in the classical novel version of Romeo and Juliet.

Allison thought, “How do I write about all of these modern films without copying some of what I’ve read on these webpages?”She was supposed to turn in an electronic version of her report because her teacher was going to check the paper using a software called turnitin (https://www.turnitin.com/). Software like turnitin was designed to verify the originality of student work by calculating the likelihood of plagiarism.

Allison understood plagiarism and wanted to do her best on this report.

## Case Questions

1. What kinds of things can Allison do to avoid plagiarizing her report on Romeo and Juliet?
2. Romeo and Juliet was written by Shakespeare 100s of years ago. Therefore, the original work is now considered in the Public Domain. Today, many modern films represent a re-creation or adaptation of its original story. How can Copyright laws protect your work if you were to create your own modern version of Romeo and Juliet? **Note**: Review the U.S. Copyright Office website on this topic: <https://www.copyright.gov/what-is-copyright/>