Consider the following excerpt from the chapter, “Group Minds,” from Doris Lessing’s *Prisons We Choose to Live Inside.*

The fact is that we all live our lives in groups--the family, work groups, social, religious and political groups. Very few people indeed are happy as solitaries, and they tend to be seen by their neighbours as peculiar or selfish or worse. Most people cannot stand being alone for long. They are always seeking groups to belong to, and if one group dissolves, they look for another. We are group animals still, and there is nothing wrong with that. But what is dangerous is not the belonging to a group, or groups, but not understanding the social laws that govern groups and govern us. (49-50)

We will examine the following five typical problems with how inexperienced writers might incorporate this passage into their own arguments.

1. plagiarism (stealing) of *language*
2. plagiarism (stealing) of *ideas*
3. intentional misrepresentation of source through omission or alteration of context
4. misrepresentation of a source through error

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