Student Plagiarism: Prevention and Detection

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Plagiarism and Definition

- Etymology: “< classical Latin *plagiārius* person who abducts the child or slave of another, kidnapper, seducer, also a literary thief.”
- 1621 – first known use of the word “Plagiarism.”
- The Oxford English Dictionary’s definition:
  1. The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft.
  2. A particular idea, piece of writing, design, etc., which has been plagiarized; an act or product of plagiary.
Plagiarism Types

Sources Not Cited

1. The Ghost Writer
2. The Photocopy
3. The Potluck Paper
4. The Poor Disguise
5. The Labor of Laziness
6. The Self-Stealer
Sources Cited (But Still Plagiarized)

7. The Forgotten Footnote
8. The Misinformer
9. The Too-Perfect Paraphrase
10. The Resourceful Citer
11. The Perfect Crime
Causes of Plagiarism

1. Poor paraphrasing
2. Inappropriate citations
3. Ignorance
4. Careless note-taking
5. Desperation
6. Procrastination
7. Writing anxiety
8. Lack of intellectual investment
9. Lack of perceived consequences
10. Outright laziness and deception
Discussion

- Experience with plagiarism
- Plagiarism cases at your institution
Plagiarism Prevention

• Assignment Design
• Online Tutorials
• Prevention Workshops
Assignment Design

1. Session with a librarian
2. Annotated bibliography
3. Reference photocopies
4. Specific number of reference sources
5. The most recent sources
6. A specific article or another source to use in the assignment
Assignment Design (continued)

7. Break up a paper into parts
8. Research log
9. Folder of student’s previous writing assignments
10. No topic changes at the last minute
11. List of topics to choose from and change this list each semester
12. Local issues or current events
Assignment Design (continued)

13. Find and compare various sources on a specific topic
14. Summary of the main points of students’ papers
15. A draft written in class
16. Three different introductions for the assignment
Assignment Design Suggestions

- [http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html) - More suggestions on assignment design to prevent plagiarism.
- [http://www.sunywcc.edu/dep/english/plag/discourage.htm](http://www.sunywcc.edu/dep/english/plag/discourage.htm) - More tips on preventing plagiarism in your assignments.
- [http://copyright.truman.edu/prevent.asp](http://copyright.truman.edu/prevent.asp) - This website includes many of the tips listed above along with additional suggestions of how to prevent plagiarism in your assignments.
Online Tutorials

- Diagnosis: Plagiarism
- How to Recognize Plagiarism
- Plagiarism: Avoiding Troubled Waters
- Plagiarism Court: You Be the Judge
- Plagiarism Tutorials
- Student Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism
- What Would You Do?
- You Quote It, You Note It
### Basic Workshop
- Lower-level students
- Pre-test
- Multiple-choice:
  - Case scenarios
  - Paraphrasing
  - Common knowledge
  - **Goblin game**
- Post-test

### Advanced Workshop
- Upper-level students
- Pre-test
- Paraphrasing activity
- Common knowledge activity
- Citation activity
- Post-test
Plan Your Plagiarism Prevention Program

1. Think about assignment design.
   • Have students turn in assignments electronically.

2. Think about education or tutorials.
   • “New students often arrive on campus unclear as to what constitutes plagiarism. Many plagiarize through ignorance of the writing and research process rather than because of a determination to cheat.” – Stop Plagiarism p. 80

3. Don’t reinvent the wheel!
   • Plagiarism Prevention Resources: http://www.uscupstate.libguides.com/FacultyPlagiarismResources
Plagiarism Detection

- Inconsistencies
- Student Voice
- Checking Citations
- Google
- Turn-it-in and SafeAssign

Plagiarism Cases

1. Check the papers for inconsistencies.
2. Look at the citations (if present).
3. Google one or two of the sentences or phrases that seem to be plagiarized from somewhere.
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- Thank You Very Much for Your Attendance!