Stealing the Word: A Comprehensive Strategy to Address Plagiarism

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Campus Wide Strategies

- Common Definition
- Penalty Procedures
- Interdepartmental Assignments
- Student Tools
III. Proscribed Conduct

C. Academic Misconduct (Definitions)

1. Cheating
2. “Plagiarism” is defined as the appropriation of any other person’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own work.
3. “Collusion”
4. Fabrication
A Beginning...

- 2004 (Fall-Summer 2005) 100
- 2005 90
- 2006 116
- 2007 123
  - Arts & Science 75
  - Business & Public Services 17
  - General (non degree seeking) 14
  - Health Education 6
  - Industrial & Engineering Technology 1
TCTC’s English Department

- Full Time Faculty—14 = 70 classes + 9 labs
- Adjunct Faculty—26 = 73 classes
English Catalog

According to “A Guide to English and Speech: Courses at TCTC 2009-2010” page 5,

At Tri-County, all forms of academic misconduct— which includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism, collusion, and falsification of information—are subject to disciplinary actions...Refer to the College Catalog on the College-wide policy.
Faculty Plagiarism Definitions

- Minimal plagiarism
- Substantial plagiarism
- Egregious plagiarism
Minimal Plagiarism

- inserting verbatim phrases of 2-3 distinctive words
- Reordering but not paraphrasing the clauses of a sentence
- imitating the sentence, paragraph, or organizational structure, or writing style of a source
- using a source's line of logic, thesis or ideas
Substantial Plagiarism

- inserting verbatim sentences or longer passages from a source
- substituting synonyms into the original sentence rather than rewriting the complete sentence
- combining paraphrasing with verbatim sentences to create a paragraph or more of text
- repeatedly and pervasively engaging in minimal plagiarism
Egregious Plagiarism

- submitting or presenting someone's complete published or unpublished work (paper, article, or chapter)
- submitting another student's work for an assignment, with or without that person's knowledge or consent
- using information from a campus file of old assignments
- downloading a term paper from a web site
- buying a term paper from a mail order company or web site
Penalties

- **Teachable Mistake**
  - Minimal plagiarism:
    - 1-3 and first offense
      - Do not penalize and confer with student about error

- **Deducting Points**
  - **First offense**
    (Minimal #4, substantial and egregious)
    - Assign a failing grade (F or 0)
  - **Second offense**
    - Failure for the course
Interdepartmental Assignments

- Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI)
  - “Dive Deeper” in students’ learning
    - Faculty Aspects
      - Applying and integrating course concepts
      - Reinforce course concepts through linked lectures, activities or teamwork
    - Student Aspects
      - Take multiple classes with same group of students
      - Responsible to other students in linked class
Student Tools

- **Writing Center**
  - Keep in the loop
  - Encourage student participation

- **Authenticity Verification Software**
  - Use as a tool for students
  - Allow for students to submit assignment early