

Georgia Southern University

## Georgia Southern Commons

---

Georgia International Conference on  
Information Literacy

2015 Program and Presentations

---

Sep 25th, 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

### Exploring and Preventing Accidental Plagiarism in a Digital Age

Amy Y. Sexton

*Kaplan University*, ASexton@kaplan.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gaintlit>



Part of the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), and the [Information Literacy Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Sexton, Amy Y., "Exploring and Preventing Accidental Plagiarism in a Digital Age" (2015). *Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy*. 83.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gaintlit/2015/2015/83>

This presentation (open access) is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences & Events at Georgia Southern Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy by an authorized administrator of Georgia Southern Commons. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).



# Exploring and Preventing Plagiarism in a Digital Age

Amy Sexton

[Asexton@kaplan.edu](mailto:Asexton@kaplan.edu)



Academic  
Support Center

# Issue

- **Students use information from the Internet without proper attribution, but students attest to using their own words and ideas**
- **Quick Internet search locates sentences and passages they have used verbatim**
- **Where is the disconnect?**





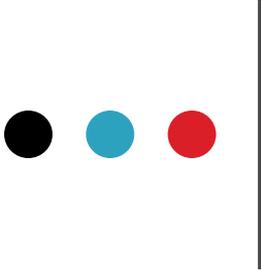
# Questions

How do digital natives view information accessed via the Internet?

How do digital natives conduct academic research and use it in their writing?

How do students define common knowledge?

How can educators best assist students who complete online research and present with plagiarism issues in their writing?



# Copy/Paste – Two Most Frequent Types of Plagiarism



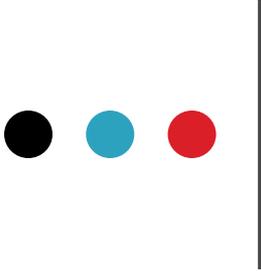
## Clone

- Submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own



## CTRL-C

- Contains significant portions of text from a single source without alteration (Turnitin, 2010).



# Academic Research

## Before Internet



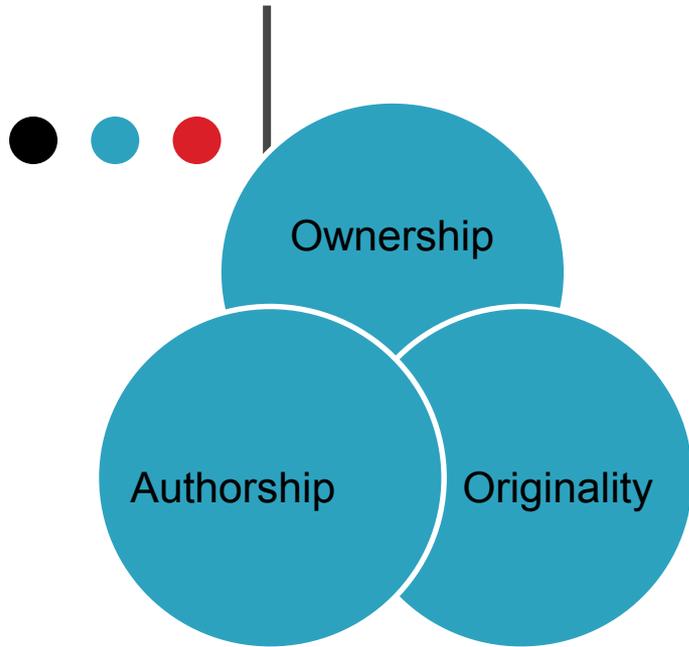
- Limited access
- Physical possession
- Careful note-taking

## After Internet



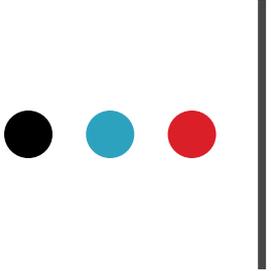
- Easy access via computer, devices
- No physical possession of source
- Copy and paste (Gabriel, 2010)

*“A digital culture that promotes sharing, openness and re-use is colliding with one of the fundamental tenets of education – the ability to develop, organize and express original thoughts” (Turnitin, 2011).*

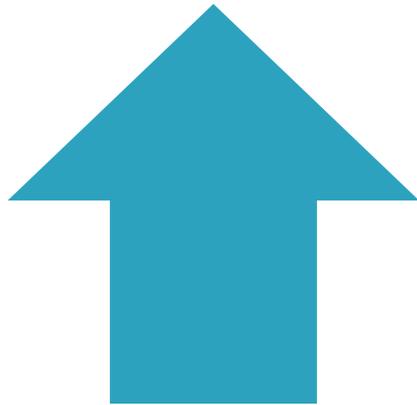


***“Today’s digital culture has blurred the lines of originality and authorship” (Turnitin, 2010).***

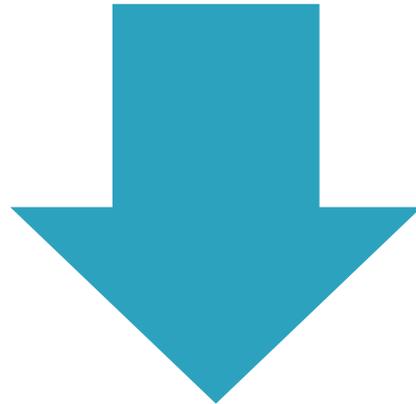
Changing views of ownership and originality, as well as different ways of acquiring information may be linked to increased plagiarism among digital natives. Trip Gabriel (2010) suggests that digital natives may see information accessed via the internet as belonging to all and free for the taking – without attribution.



# Shifting Views of Information and Knowledge



Information Individually  
Owned, Knowledge  
Independently  
Constructed



Information Communally  
Owned, Knowledge  
Collaboratively  
Constructed (Gallant,  
2014).

*The Internet is a “mutual brain that we can all tap”  
~ Anonymous student (as cited in Gallant, 2014).*



# Defining Common Knowledge

I found this on Wikipedia, so it must be common knowledge.

This information can be found in five or more different sources, so it is common knowledge.

(Gallant, 2014)





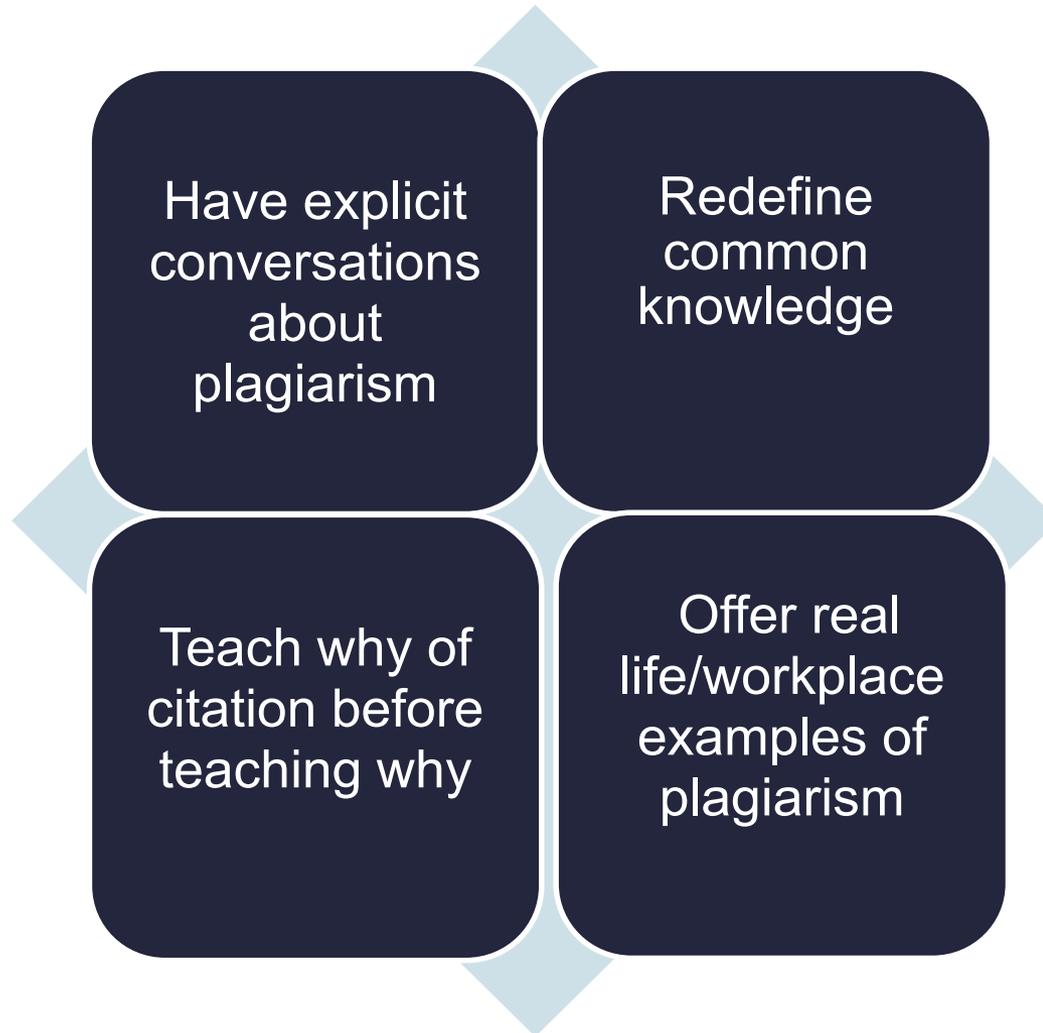
# Institutional Solutions



(Evering & Moorman, 2012; Gallant, 2014; Turnitin, 2010, 2011)



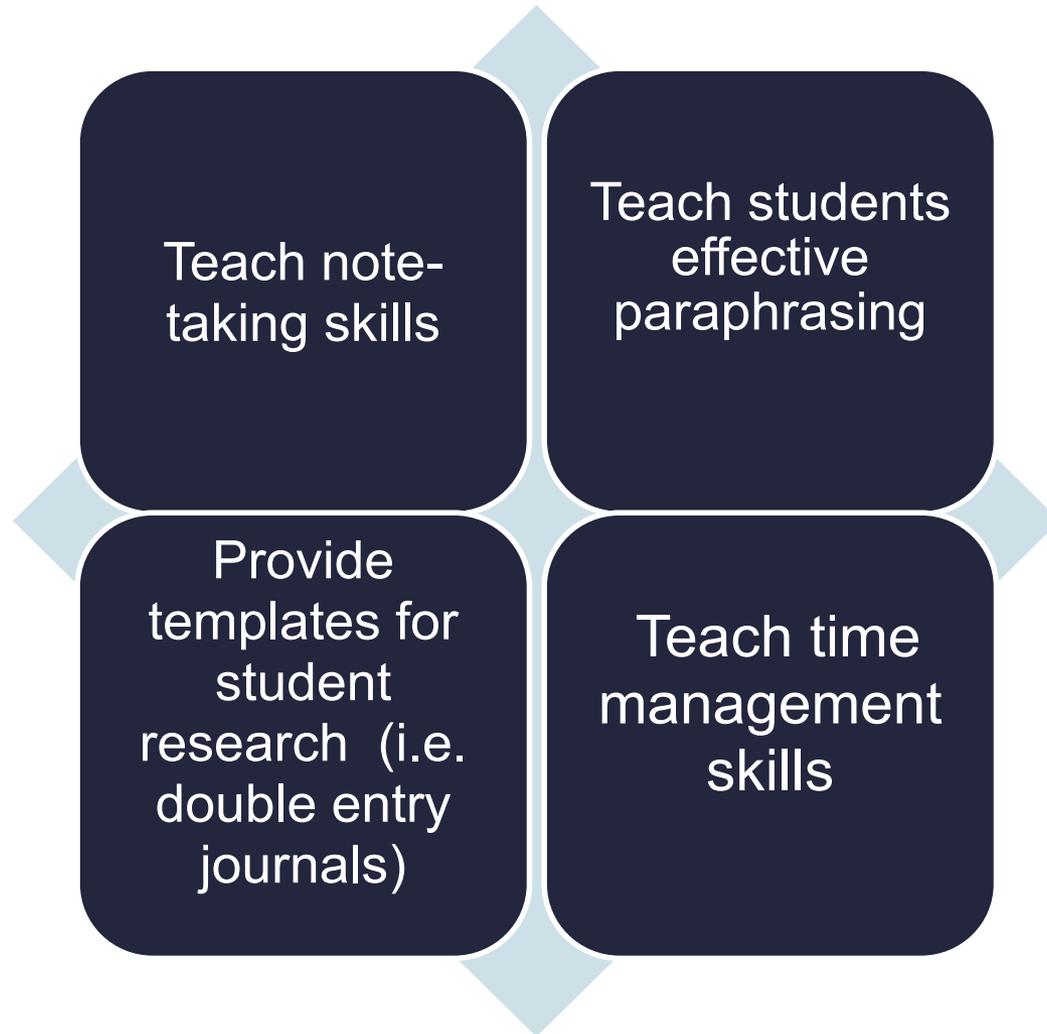
# Classroom Solutions



(Evering & Moorman, 2012; Gallant, 2014; Turnitin, 2010, 2011)



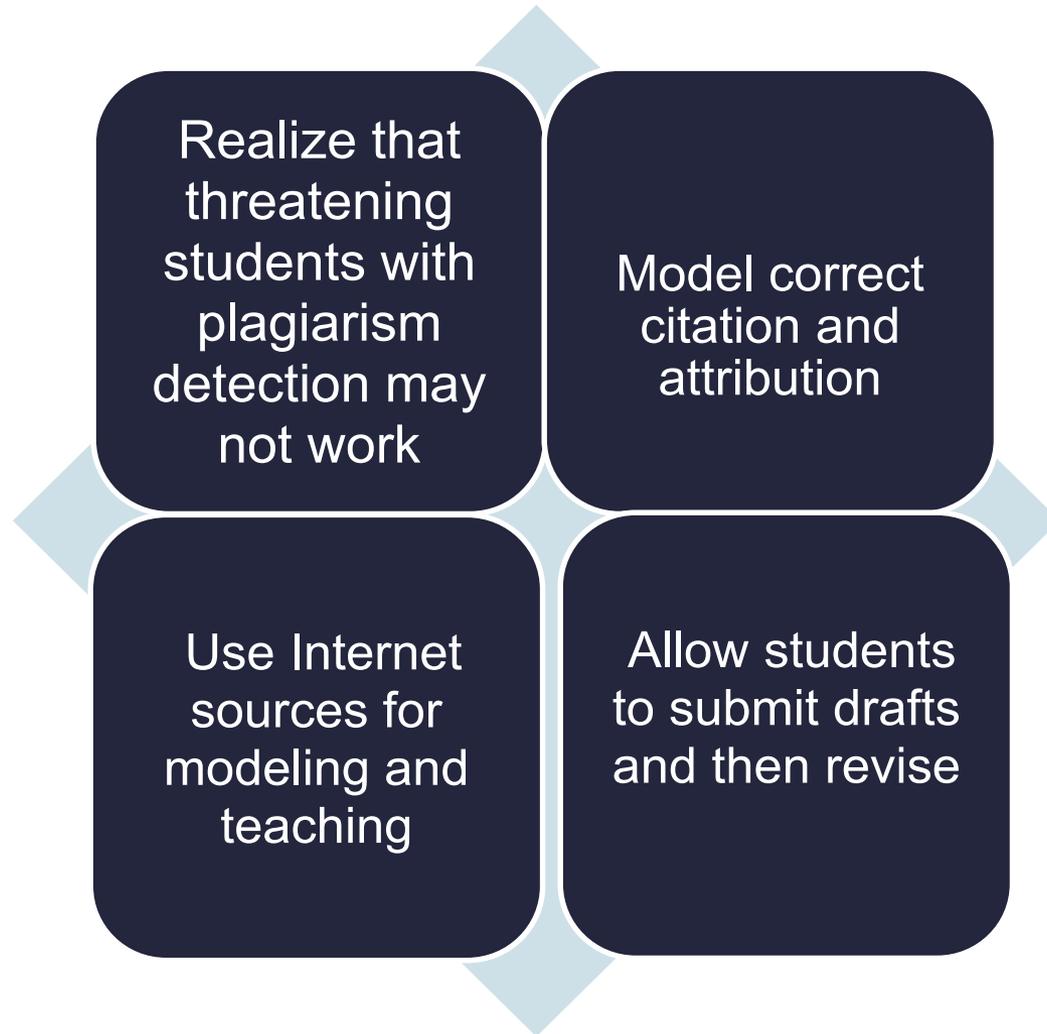
# Classroom Solutions



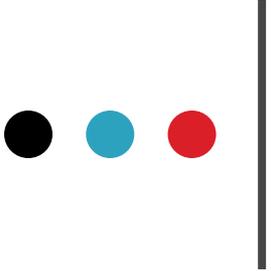
(Evering & Moorman, 2012; Gallant, 2014; Turnitin, 2010, 2011)



# Classroom Solutions



(Evering & Moorman, 2012; Gallant, 2014; Turnitin, 2010, 2011)



# References

- Evering, L.C. & Moorman G. (2012, Sept.). Rethinking plagiarism in the digital age. *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, 56(1), 35-44.  
doi:10.1002/JAAL.00100
- Gabriel, T. (2010, Aug. 1). Plagiarism lines blur for students in a digital age. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/02/education/02cheat.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/02/education/02cheat.html?_r=0)
- Gallant, T.B. (2014). The accidental plagiarist: The myths, the truths, and what it all means for teaching & learning [Webcast]. Retrieved from  
<http://go.turnitin.com//45292/2014-06-18/3kb5>
- Turnitin. (2010). Instructor's insights into the 10 types of plagiarism [White paper]. Retrieved from  
[http://storage.pardot.com/45292/6694/Turnitin\\_WhitePaper\\_PlagiarismSpectrum.pdf](http://storage.pardot.com/45292/6694/Turnitin_WhitePaper_PlagiarismSpectrum.pdf)
- Turnitin. (2011). Plagiarism and the web: Myths and realities [White paper]. Retrieved from  
[https://turnitin.com/static/resources/documentation/turnitin/company/Turnitin\\_White\\_paper\\_Plagiarism\\_Web.pdf](https://turnitin.com/static/resources/documentation/turnitin/company/Turnitin_White_paper_Plagiarism_Web.pdf)