Student Plagiarism: Prevention and Detection

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Student Plagiarism: Prevention and Detection

Bree Kirsch & Lola Bradley
USC Upstate
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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
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
Plagiarism Prevention Workshops

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

Turn-it-in

Sample Originality Report

Title and author

Similarity Index

Assignment text

Matched text, colour-coded and numbered

Original material by student

Quotation, correctly cited and attributed

Text matches, highest match first

Viewing Mode

Match to student submission

Match to web site content

Colour-coded and numbered sources match assignment text excerpts

http://www.essex.ac.uk/plagiarism/turnitin.html

The Problem of Plagiarism
by Jane Brown

The problem of Plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a growing problem

in today's

schools, colleges and universities, who who now regard it as a serious and punishable offence. Innovative technology is increasingly being employed to address plagiarism in education and academia, including several web-based plagiarism-detection systems, which will routinely compare student coursework against millions of sources, both those stored in databases of books, newspapers and journals and internet webpages, both past and current.

"Because it is so easy to locate information using the Internet, students have given in to the temptation to take materials and use them for their own,"

writes Jane Shanka (Shanka, 2007).

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work. Within
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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Questions

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• Thank You Very Much for Your Attendance!