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
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://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

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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 website content

Colour-coded and numbered sources match assignment text excerpts
The Matching Index shows the percentage of the paper that matched other sources.

Paper Information
- Author: Todd Moe C1
- Assignment: Demo Assignment 1
- Submission Date: 2006-04-04 16:58:12 EST
- Paper ID: 41429

Suspected Sources
- Click on a source to view the original, or click on the magnifying glass to see the source highlighted in the text below.
- Click on each Suspected Source to see the full corresponding source.
- Click the magnifying glass icon to highlight the Paper Text material that matched to that particular source.

Paper Text
- Click on the text to see more info about the source.
- Paper Text is the actual text from the submitted paper.
- Highlighted text indicates what portions of the Paper Text corresponds to which source.

Use the Reprocess icon to rerun the report without checking against those sources indicated by the check boxes.

Numbers indicate which Suspected Source this text matched with.

Print Version is a text-only formatted version that is accessible and optimized for printing.

These features will give you a direct URL to this report that you can then email to others.
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.
Bibliography

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  http://www.virtualsalt.com/antiplag.htm
- Oxford English Dictionary.
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  http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html
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- Plagiarism.org
  http://www.plagiarism.org/plag_article_types_of_plagiarism.html
- Stop Plagiarism: A Guide to Understanding and Prevention Edited by
  Vibiana Bowman Cvetkovic and Katie Elson Anderson
- Truman State University - http://copyright.truman.edu/prevent.asp
- Webster University
  http://www.webster.edu/fdc/fac_training/03/causes_of_plagiarism.pdf
- Westchester Community College -
  http://www.sunywcc.edu/dep/english/plag/discourage.htm
Questions

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- Thank You Very Much for Your Attendance!