



Plagiarism: A Professional Development Workshop

By Patricia Morrison, Librarian

Largely based on information from the book:

**The Plagiarism Handbook: Strategies for Preventing, Detecting,
and Dealing with Plagiarism**, by Robert A. Harris, 2001



Definition of Plagiarism



- Plagiarism is the failure to distinguish the student's own words and ideas from those of a source the student has consulted. Ideas derived from another, whether presented as exact words, a paraphrase, a summary, or quoted phrase, must always be appropriately referenced to the source, whether the source is printed, electronic, or spoken.



Why Students Plagiarize

- Ignorance about what constitutes plagiarism
- Stress, workload, competition
- Lack of perceived punishment
- Inadequate writing abilities
- “Instructors don’t actually read/check these”
- Mistake: forgot to monitor sources closely



Varieties of Plagiarism

- Downloading from paper mill web site
- Copying an article from Web or electronic database
- Getting paper from friend
- Cutting and pasting from several sources
- Changing some words but copying whole phrases
- Paraphrasing without attributing
- Faking a citation

Educating Students About Plagiarism

- Don't assume students know what plagiarism is – define and give examples, good cites and plagiarized sources
- Make the instruction positive
- Discuss why plagiarism is unethical and why
- Discuss the benefits of citing sources
- Tell war stories and mention paper mill sites
- Make the penalties clear, particularly in your syllabus (they can be presented positively)





How to Make Plagiarism Difficult

- Topic: make it highly specific, add something personal
- Require specific components: break assignment down, outline, rough draft
- Require most references to be very up-to-date and/or 2 of this, 2 of this, etc.
- Require copies of source material
- Require oral reports as well



How to Detect a Plagiarized Work

Clues:

- Mixing MLA and APA or other styles
- Very few citations, quotations
- Dead-end references "See Table 4"
- Mixed styles: margins, subheadings, etc
- Off the topic in an odd way
- Dated info
- Dead URLs in citations
- Funny style: too technical or old-fashioned



Know Possible Places Where Students Get Their Papers

- 1) Online/commercial paper mills
- 2) The Web
- 3) Electronic databases
- 4) Friends



How to Check These Sources

1. <http://www.essaycrawler.com>
2. <http://www.essayfinder.com>
3. <http://www.google.com>
4. Check known online paper mill sites
5. Check electronic databases from library web page: <http://www.grossmont.net/library/>
6. <http://www.turnitin.com>



What to Enter in the Search Box of The Search Engine Sources: a Suspect Phrase or Sentence, in Quotation Marks, Including:

- Highly unusually worded phrases
- Phrases of technical jargon
- Dated language
- Phrase that doesn't "fit" paper



Some Term Paper Sites (Some Free, Some Fee):
(Use a Search Engine to Find the Latest Sites, Entering
Terms Like "Term Papers", "Research Papers" "College
Essays" or "Essays Free")

- <http://www.freeessay.com>
- <http://www.termpapersites.com>
- <http://www.123helpme.com>
- <http://www.netessays.net>
- <http://www.schoolsucks.com/search>
- <http://www.screwschool.com>
- <http://www.15000papers.com>



How to Deal with Plagiarism (Watchword: Handle Carefully, be Prepared)

- 1. Review all institutional policies, guidelines, and any due process procedures**
- 2. Give benefit of doubt (not all is intentional, or person's friend may have copied theirs without their knowledge)**
- 3. Verify and keep evidence safe and at the ready (print copy of Web document, etc)**
- 4. Consider the presence of a colleague**
- 5. Treat student with respect**
- 6. Ask questions rather than accuse**
- 7. Ask the right kinds of questions**
- 8. If the student rationalizes their way out, they may need to be tested**
- 9. Consider appropriate penalty for situation**



Grossmont's Policies on plagiarism

- From Faculty/Staff handbook (pg14)
<http://grossmont.gcccd.cc.ca.us/home/facultystaff/instructionalinformation.asp>
- R. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Cheating and plagiarism (the use as one's own the ideas, writings, or materials of someone else without acknowledgement or permission) will result in any one or combination of a variety of sanctions. Such penalties may range from an adjusted grade on the particular exam, paper, project, or assignment to a failing grade in the course at the discretion of the instructor, subject to certain conditions.



Grossmont's Policies on plagiarism

- From Faculty/Staff handbook (pg7)
<http://www.grossmont.net/home/facultystaff/geninfo.asp>
- Conduct for which a student may be disciplined, if it is college related:
 - a. Theft or nonaccidental damage to college property.
 - b. Forgery, alteration or misuse of records, documents or identification.
 - c. Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program.



Student Discipline Procedures



- Grounds for disciplinary action
 - Academic dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the district and/or the college.



Questions?

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