Plagiarism in the Digital Age

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Cut and Paste Plagiarism

- Student: Tenure is becoming more and more outmoded.
- Source: Is tenure becoming an outmoded concept that stands in the way of sound educational policy?

Paper Purchases and Trades

- Papers for sale: www.schoolsucks.com
  www.cheater.com
- Papers for trade: www.cheathouse.com
- Go to one of these sites and search for a paper in your discipline.

Google Search for Blatant Plagiarism

- Go to http://www.google.com
- Pick a suspicious phrase or sentence.
  “The NAACP successfully campaigned for African Americans to be commissioned as officers”.
- Type these suspicious words in quotation marks in the search box.
- Click on search and Google will try to locate the source on the web.

Plagiarism Detection Sites

- Free sites: www.northernlight.com
  www.fastsresearch.com
- Commercial Sites: www.turnitin.com
  www.plagiarism.com
Four Forms of Plagiarism

• Blatant copying from a source with little or no citation (easy to detect).
• Sloppy note taking and uncited paraphrasing (harder to detect).
• Panicked but more deliberate cut and paste, "patchwork" plagiarism (more subtle)
• Purchasing or trading for an entire paper (most egregious).

Some Prevention Strategies

• Make assignments clear and discuss the requirements with students.
• Teach students to read assignments more carefully.
• Create checkpoints for certain steps of the research and writing process.

Some Prevention Strategies

• Control at least some of the sources student must use.
• Require students to keep all notes, sources, and/or drafts.
• Have students discuss their research and writing in either oral presentations or written commentaries.
• Discuss research strategies within your discipline.

Some Prevention Strategies

• Discuss the writing conventions of your discipline: Why is New Critical literary criticism written in the continuous present? Why do social scientists cite using APA that includes copyright dates? Why is "I" forbidden in most scientific writing?

Some Prevention Strategies

• Teach plagiarism explicitly and with scholarly rigor.
  - Compare the Napster mentality with Medieval assumptions about authorship when scribes copied unattributed manuscripts
  - Explain the nineteenth debate over copyright as printing presses transformed publishing into a commercial endeavor.

Some Causes of Plagiarism

• Sheer ignorance
• Poor time management
• Fear
• Disinterest
• Belief that the internet is a public space without any personal right to intellectual property; the "Napster Effect."
Further Library Resources

- Cheating 101: Paper Mills and You (Coastal Carolina University)
- Cut and Paste Plagiarism (University of Illinois)
- EduTie.com
- Electronic Plagiarism Seminar (La Moyne College)
- A Faculty Guide to Cyber-Plagiarism (University of Alberta)
- Instructor's Guide to Internet Plagiarism (Carlton University)

Further Library Resources

Commercial Plagiarism Checkers

Note that these services are listed for informational purposes only. We have not evaluated any of them, and do not imply opinions on any by their inclusion or exclusion.

- Essay Verification Engine
- Glatt Plagiarism Services
- Plagiarized.com: The Instructors Guide to Internet Plagiarism
- Plagiarism.org
- PlagServe
- turnitin.com
- WordCheck KeyWORD Software