

A Quick Guide to Plagiarism Detection

Educating Students About Plagiarism

- Provide them examples of plagiarism
- Show them tools they can use to evaluate their written works
- Include information about plagiarism in your syllabus or link to websites that describe plagiarism
- Invite a librarian to speak with your class about easy ways to cite sources
- Inform students up front that if plagiarism is a concern in a submitted work, you will evaluate for plagiarism

Some Reasons Plagiarism Occurs

Lack of understanding about

- How to cite references (Guertin 2005)
- What Plagiarism is
- The use of digital information
- University policies and procedures

Plagiarism Detection Tools

Software

- Turnitin
- Safe Assign
- EVE2

Search Engines

- Google – google.com
- Google Scholar – scholar.google.com
- Google Books – books.google.com

Library Full-Text Databases

- Proquest Research Library, Academic Search Premier – guides.lib.k-state.edu/az.php
- Search It – searchit.lib.ksu.edu

Websites

- Plagiarism Checker.com - plagiarismchecker.com
- Plagiarisma - plagiarisma.net
- Plagiarism Checker - dustball.com/cs/plagiarism.checker
- Dupli Checker - duplichecker.com
- PaperRater - paperrater.com
- Plagiarism Detect - plagiarism-detect.com
- Viper - scanmyessay.com
- Internet Public Library - ipl.org

What you need to know before using plagiarism-detection software

- Software shows a percentage likelihood of plagiarism. Faculty must then build the case for plagiarism. Shortcomings include false positives, false negatives, and problems with not detecting paraphrased work.
- Questions about copyright and privacy regarding students' papers abound. Use of software establishes an atmosphere of distrust. Dalhousie University decided not to renew their Turnitin contract because the "university lacked confidence in the service", "presumption of guilt" and additional reasons (2011).
- Institutional and local policies need to be in place prior to the availability/use of the software.
- The full text of every work is not indexed by Google or by one library database.

Plagiarism Resources

K-STATE WEBSITES

Examples of Academic Dishonesty at K-State
k-state.edu/honor/student/examples.html

PRESENTATIONS/TUTORIALS

Acadia University Plagiarism Tutorial
<http://library.acadiau.ca/sites/default/files/library/tutorials/plagiarism/>
Cofrin Library Guides - Plagiarism
<https://libguides.uwgb.edu/plagiarism>

OTHER RESOURCES

Purdue Online Writing Lab – Avoiding Plagiarism
owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01

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Plagiarism Examples

The edited works below include verbatim sentences, wording, and paraphrasing without appropriate citations. If an entire sentence or part of a sentence is used, it should be set off by quotation marks and attribution to the author of the original work should be provided.

Example 1

Edited Work

Original work is the basis for your professor's evaluation of your performance in a course. Intellectual honesty is the basis for our academic community. Always distinguish your own words and ideas from the words and ideas of others. Making those distinctions isn't always easy and made more difficult by poor research habits and submission deadlines.

Original Source

Your original work — whether an essay, a solution to a math problem, or a research paper — is also the basis for your professor's evaluation of your performance in a course. For that reason, intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of our academic community. You must always distinguish your own words and ideas from the words and ideas of others — including the authors of print or electronic sources, faculty members, classmates, and friends. Making those distinctions isn't always easy and can be made even more difficult by less-than-careful research habits or the time pressure of submission deadlines.

Source

The Challenge of Original Work (August 2011). Retrieved from <http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/original/>

Note

Using plagiarism-detect.com, 43% of the edited work was determined to be plagiarized.

Example 2

Edited Work

There are approximately 7 million hits from a Google search on “plagiarism”. Claims that cheating is increasing including plagiarism are based on anecdotal evidence (Perry 2010; Park, 2003). There are strong arguments that the Internet is contributing to the increase in cases of plagiarism in higher education including distance education (Decoo, 2002, Kennedy, Nowak, Raghuraman, Thomas, & David, 2000). Compounding the issue is the ability to lift information directly from the Internet and remix, which blurs the lines between original and collaborative thought.

Original Source

There are over 7 million results from a Google search today on the term “plagiarism”. There have been hundreds of news media and academic articles written about college students and cheating (Perry 2010). The claims that cheating is increasing—and specifically plagiarism—are based on anecdotal evidence (Perry, 2010; Park, 2003). However there are strong arguments that the Internet is contributing to the increase in cases of plagiarism in higher education including distance education (Decoo, 2002, Kennedy, Nowak, Raghuraman, Thomas, & David, 2000). McKenzie (1998) puts it bluntly, “The New Plagiarism may be worse than the old because students now wield an Electronic Shovel that makes it possible to find and save huge chunks of information with little reading, effort or originality.” To further complicate the issue many scholars argue that the issues of plagiarism and originality are historically mercurial and impossible to define. (Freeman, 1998, Campbell, 2007).

Source

Singh H, Bennington AJ. (2012). Faculty on the Frontline: Predicting faculty intentions to address college student plagiarism. *Academy of Educational Leadership Journal*, 16 (4) 2012: 115-128.

Note

Using plagiarism-detect.com, the percent of plagiarism was inconclusive but matched to this pdf.

References

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- McQueeney, P (2012). *Writing Matters*. Retrieved from <https://drpatmcq.wordpress.com/writing-matters/citations/incorporating-information/>
- Zaltzman, A. (2011, September 15). *Turnitin.com gets turned off by Dalhousie*. Retrieved from https://www.westerngazette.ca/news/turnitin-com-gets-turned-off-by-dalhousie/article_f689922d-1ae2-5d28-b204-76967dae8a32.html

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