Plagiarism

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What do journalists, rock stars, authors & historians, senators, vice-presidents, and an heiress all have in common?
http://www.famousplagiarists.com/politics.htm
- Lawsuits
- Out of court settlements
- Admissions of guilt
- Embarrassment
- Loss of reputation
- Failed presidential bid
- Loss of employment - resignations, fired
- Revoked college degrees
What if you write a poem or a song?
What if you write an A paper?
What if you decide to run for office?
What if you take a captivating photograph?
What if someday you were a newsmaker?
What about you?

- Why did you decide to go to college?
- What do you need to learn to compete in this marketplace?
- How would you feel if you got caught plagiarizing?
- What would you do if you received an F in a course or were expelled?
- What would you do then?
“In a recent study published in Psychological Record, 65% of students were unable to detect plagiarism when presented with original and paraphrased text. Many students were never taught what is involved in plagiarism or why it is important to attribute ideas.”

Plagiarism Defined

- Words
- Ideas
- Opinions
- Theories
- Illustrative Material
- Music

1. “What is plagiarism at Indiana University?”
   [http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/index2.html](http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/index2.html)
Plagiarism Defined

- “The wrongful appropriation...and publication as one’s own, of the ideas, or the expression of the ideas (literary, artistic, musical, mechanical, etc.) of another.”

- “...to take and use as one’s own the thoughts, writings or inventions of another.”

1. The Oxford English Dictionary
“A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without appropriate acknowledgment. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness whenever he or she does any of the following:

a. Quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written;
b. Paraphrases another person's words, either oral or written;
c. Uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or
d. Borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.”

1. “What is plagiarism at Indiana University?”
http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/index2.html
Plagiarism Defined

• “submitting material that in part or whole is not entirely one’s own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source.”

1. “How to avoid plagiarism” Northwestern University website
   http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html
“You've heard some teachers say that it's always wrong to copy someone else's work. They ruthlessly check your papers for plagiarism. Other teachers say that it's all right as long as you give credit to the original author. Who's right? “

“To answer this question, we have to think about the difference between plagiarism and copyright infringement. Take a look at these definitions from The Council Chronicle for English teachers:

“Plagiarism is using someone else's work without giving proper credit - a failure to cite adequately. “

“Copyright infringement is using someone else's creative work, which can include a song, a video, a movie clip, a piece of visual art, a photograph, and other creative works, without authorization or compensation, if compensation is appropriate. “

“Schools enforce plagiarism. The courts enforce copyright infringement. ¹ “

Plagiarism Checker retrieved 2/18/10
http://www.plagiarismchecker.com/plagiarism-vs-copyright.php
Legal Definition

- *West's Encyclopedia of American Law*, plagiarism is “the act of appropriating the literary composition of another author, or excerpts, ideas, or passages there from, and passing the material off as one's own creation. **Plagiarism is theft of another person's writing or ideas.**“
- “Courts recognize acts of plagiarism as violations of copyright law, specifically as the theft of another creator's intellectual property. **It is not necessary to exactly duplicate another's work in order to infringe a copyright; it is sufficient to take a substantial portion of the copyrighted material.**“
- “Thus, for example, plagiarism can **include copying language or ideas from another novelist...**"
What does Wikipedia say about Plagiarism?

“From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

- Jump to: navigation, search
- For other uses, see Plagiarism (disambiguation).
- **Plagiarism**, as defined in the 1995 *Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary*, is the "use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work."[1] Within academia, plagiarism by students, professors, or researchers is considered academic dishonesty or academic fraud and offenders are subject to academic censure, up to and including expulsion. In journalism, plagiarism is considered a breach of journalistic ethics, and reporters caught plagiarizing typically face disciplinary measures ranging from suspension to termination of employment. Some individuals caught plagiarizing in academic or journalistic contexts claim that they plagiarized unintentionally, by failing to include quotations or give the appropriate citation. While plagiarism in scholarship and journalism has a centuries-old history, the development of the Internet, where articles appear as electronic text, has made the physical act of copying the work of others much easier.

- Plagiarism is not the same as copyright infringement. While both terms may apply to a particular act, they are different transgressions. Copyright infringement is a violation of the rights of a copyright holder, when material protected by copyright is used without consent. On the other hand, plagiarism is concerned with the unearned increment to the plagiarizing author’s reputation that is achieved through false claims of authorship.”

Why students plagiarize

- Procrastination leads to desperation
- Lack of understanding or poor documentation
- Cultural / victimless crime - read and hear about other students / professionals committing
- Lack of enforcement – historically 1.

1. “In Other People’s Words: plagiarism by university students - literature and lessons”, C. Park
Misconceptions

- Substitute synonyms for author’s words
- Mixing up the writers words - rearrangement
- Revise or rewrite but not cite
- “Copying a table, graph, chart, picture, drawing, or other diagram without referencing the original source” ¹.

1. “Instructor’s Guide for Basic Student Writing,” Szczechowski
Misconceptions

- Oral interview without quoting
- Using similar tone / unique sentence structure
- “[Taking] text from a public domain source such as a nineteenth-century work or a government document” 1.

Quantity of Words

● Using excerpts – 2 - 3 plus words?
  ● studies prove...
  ● vs.
  ● “moral and ethical considerations pervade...”¹
● Number of words not the entire picture
● More importantly are the ideas

● [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1249/is_n4_v65/ai_13559827](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1249/is_n4_v65/ai_13559827)
Unintentional Plagiarism

- Careless note taking can lead to Cryptomnesia – unconscious assimilation of ideas or phrases 1.
- Summarizing / paraphrasing without citing source

1. The Plagiarism Handbook, Harris
3 Main Types of Plagiarism

- 1. Direct Quotations
- 2. Paraphrasing
- 3. Summarizing
1. Direct Quotes

Taking exact words, phrases, paragraphs, etc. from another source or conversation.

- Effective uses of quotes:
  - Author has a very strong point
  - Author has credibility
  - No reasonable way to rephrase

1. [http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html](http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html)
2. Paraphrasing

- You must still cite the original source even if you:
  - Change the authors words into your own language and style
  - Borrow the author’s ideas in any manner
3. Summarizing

- Summarizing is taking the authors main idea and condensing into a short version.
- This is an efficient way to pare down a work
- You can use your own words but you must still cite!
How To Cite Sources?

- Two Types:
  - In-text citation (parenthetical)
    - embedded in the document
  - References
    - at the end of the document
Examples of **text** Citations

- Typically includes author’s last name and year of publication
  - According to Smith and Jones (2003)
  - “...quoted material...” (Smith, 2003)

- Researchers have indicated that more is expected of students in higher education (Hudson, 2001) and secondary education (Taylor & Hornung, 2002). ¹

¹. [http://wwwcrk.umn.edu/library/links/apa5th.htm](http://wwwcrk.umn.edu/library/links/apa5th.htm), University of Minnesota, Crookston
Examples of References

- List of sources with the author's last name first, typically followed by the year of publication, title, publisher name, etc.


1. [http://www.apastyle.org/elecsource.html](http://www.apastyle.org/elecsource.html)
2. [http://www.crk.umn.edu/library-links/apa5th.htm](http://www.crk.umn.edu/library-links/apa5th.htm), University of Minnesota, Crookston
Ways to Prevent Plagiarism

• “...do not cut and paste [from an article or the Internet] directly into your own draft.”

• When in doubt - cite or ask for advice from your professor or the writing center

1. Hamilton College Writing Center Website
Ways to Prevent Plagiarism

• “Be conscientious and consistent in whatever note-taking strategy you use.”¹
  • Keep track of sources
  • Take good notes
    • Mark a Q in the margin ².

¹ & ². Hamilton College Writing Center Website
http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/resource/wc/usingsources.html
My Suggestions

- Photocopy front pages of books
- Print out citations from EBSCOhost in APA format
- Use highlighters for quotes
- Create a research journal with dates
What Is Acceptable?

- “Your own experiences, thinking, opinions, analysis, critique, conclusions” ¹.
- “supporting, contradicting, clarifying or explaining…”
- Data / results of your own research study / survey¹.
- “Common knowledge (generally accepted facts)” ¹.
  - JFK was President of the United States
  - Brazil is in South America
  - Global warming is occurring

¹. Glendale, [http://www.glendale.edu/library/research/plagiarism.html](http://www.glendale.edu/library/research/plagiarism.html)
². University of Saskatchewan, “Copyright and Plagiarism & Academic Integrity”, Dr. Tom Roberts, 2007
“Quality academic writing is built upon the work of others, to which we add our own unique analysis and contributions. Citation allows us to acknowledge how the scholarship of others has contributed to our own work, to distinguish for our readers which ideas are our own and which are borrowed, and to give our readers a path by which they can trace the intellectual development of the ideas we present. To fail to distinguish our original ideas from those of our forebears is plagiarism, "the act of appropriating the literary composition of another author, or excerpts, ideas, or passages there from, and passing the material off as one's own creation." (West's Encyclopedia of American Law)”

Plagiarism can be the theft of musical lyrics, ideas, statistics as well as words?

T/F
Plagiarism can result in lawsuits and fines?
Students can be failed in a course or even expelled from an academic institution for plagiarizing.
If you substitute synonyms and mix up the sentence structure enough you are not committing plagiarism?
You don’t need to use quote marks if you only use part of a sentence in your paper?
Information on the Internet is generally in the public domain and can be used freely?
If you paraphrase someone’s work you don’t need quote marks but you still need to include a reference in an in-text citation to give credit for the idea?
• How to Recognize Plagiarism – Examples

• http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/
END

Question & Answer
Post Presentation Material
NPR Broadcast – All Things Considered

Guest Host Melissa Block talks with Thomas Mallon, author of *Stolen Words: Forays into the Origins and Ravages of Plagiarism*, about the discovery of plagiarism by well-known authors such as Steven Ambrose, and research techniques which should help avoid the problem.

Summary of Broadcast

- “Honest mistakes
- Too familiar with material
- Organizational skills
  - system to organize materials (guidelines)
- Habits that are comfortable” ¹.

¹. Melissa Block talks with Thomas Mallon
• Indiana University offers a free online quiz with actual passages and feedback on answers.

http://education.indiana.edu/~frick/plagiarism/item1.html
Select Websites

- Fairfield University, The Plagiarism Court
  - [http://www.fairfield.edu/x13870.html](http://www.fairfield.edu/x13870.html)
    - full version requires flash & audio

- Library Research Wiki (website)
  - [http://wilmingtoncollegewiki.pbwiki.com/Plagiarism](http://wilmingtoncollegewiki.pbwiki.com/Plagiarism)
Exercises for practice:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html
Where to go for additional information

• Numerous college websites:
  • Bucks County Community College
  • Glendale Community College
  • Hamilton College
  • Indiana University
  • Northwestern University
  • Purdue University
Commercial site with “Free printable handouts plagiarism, proper citation, and paper writing” ¹.

¹. http://www.turnitin.com/research_site/e_home.html
Websites with excellent information or additional examples

- http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html
- http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html
- http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html
- http://sja.ucdavis.edu/avoid.htm
Additional Electronic Sources

- http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/about/what.html
- http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html
- www.plagiarism.org
- http://www.bucks.edu/tutor/plagiarism.htm
Additional Electronic Sources

- [http://sja.ucdavis.edu/avoid.htm](http://sja.ucdavis.edu/avoid.htm)
- [http://northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html](http://northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html)
- [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html)
- [http://www.glendale.edu/library/libins/icweb/Handouts/Plagiarism.htm](http://www.glendale.edu/library/libins/icweb/Handouts/Plagiarism.htm)
Additional Electronic Sources

- http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/resources/wc/usingsourceses.html
- http://www.hamilton.edu/writing/style/plagiarism/plagiarism.html
- http://www.georgetown.edu/honor/plagiarism.html
- http://www.academicintegrity.org/cai_research.asp
Print Sources

- “Student Cheating and Plagiarism in the Internet Era” - Lathrop and Foss
- “The Plagiarism Handbook” - Harris
- “Prentice Hall Handbook for Writers” - Kramer, Leggett, Mead
Print Sources

- “Teaching Information Literacy” - Burkhardt, MacDonald, Rathemacher
- “Rules for Writers” - Hacker
- “A Writer’s Reference” - Hacker
- “In Other People’s Words: plagiarism by university students - literature and lessons” - Park
- “Instructor’s Guide for Basic Student Writing” - Szczechowski