Faculty Tips for Combating Plagiarism

Proactive tips

- Discuss and define plagiarism with students before the assignment. Make sure that consequences and detection methods are discussed.
- Discuss the topic of paraphrasing and how to do it. Students who don't understand what they are reading have more difficulty paraphrasing.
- Discuss how using the style guide helps them to avoid plagiarism. Not using a citation style exactly (formatting) should not be seen as bad as "Copy & Paste Plagiarism." (Cohen, 2005)
- Encourage the use of the style guide and be open to questions. This may mean having a notation for difficult citations; students make their best attempt and indicate they had difficulty with the instance.
- Make students aware of the institutional/ departmental policy and its consequences
- Be aware of the paper mill sites and discuss them with your students. Indicate you know they exist and could be randomly or individually checking with them for student papers.

Low tech tools: the assignment

- Assign a personal slant to essays, or add this as a component of the assignment
- Concentrate on the process of the written assignment; drafts of the process or personal discussions will help you gain a sense of the student's process, ideas and style.
- Adjust the assignment to topics discussed within the textbook or class discussions. Have students include these ideas within the paper, or address them in context.
- Have students address a local or current problem in its context of the course ideas/ topics
- Use specific topics instead of general
- Ask students to turn in research notes, or journal as part of assignment
- Make sure students know the difference between group projects and plagiarism, and how you would like them to document group discussions/ explorations.

Signs to look for if you suspect plagiarism

- Odd formatting changes
- Out of date references in list
- References in a different style than assigned
- Topic off course of the assignment
- Paragraphs not of the same writing style or voice
- Out of date context, discussions of non-current events in the present tense
- Web addresses in the text that look like a link
- Finding similar phrasing in more than one paper for the same assignment

Search for suspect passages

- Academic Search Complete or other full text databases
- Electronic Journal Center and JSTOR
- Google, and other search engines
- Check for paper titles on paper mill sites
- Use a free search service
- Use a fee based service

Online Tools

Sites that PROVIDE papers:

  * http://www.a1-termpaper.com/
  * http://www.schoolsucks.com
  * http://www.oppapers.com/
  * http://www.freepapers.com/
  * http://www.123helpme.com/
  * http://www.cheathouse.com
  * http://www.duenow.com
  * http://www.schoolpaper.com
  * http://www.ivyessays.com
  * http://www.planetpapers.com
  * http://www.screwschool.com

See also Coastal Carolina University site for more listings:
http://www.coastal.edu/library/presentations/mills2.html

Sites that DETECT plagiarism:

- Search Engines: google.com (*check several search engines; msn.com, yahoo.com, aol.com, altavista.com, etc.)
- Full text databases (Academic Search Premier, etc.)
- Pay sites: Turnitin.com

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