

Combating Student Plagiarism

February 16, 2007

Rob Kairis
Library Director
Stark Campus

Margaret Wick
Assistant Professor
Communications Studies

Rozell Duncan
Assistant Professor
Communications Studies

Marian Maxfield
Graduate Assistant
Education Technology & Distributed Learning

Overview

- Orientation
- Education/Integration
- Prevention
- Consistency
- Rehabilitation
- Assessment

Orientation

- An overview of the university policy
- Practical (common sense) ways to avoid plagiarism
- Discussion of the ethical implications of plagiarizing
- Discussion of how students plagiarize (case studies)

Education/Integration

- Find the proper course within the discipline where plagiarism could be more fully discussed
- Provide a specific definition for plagiarism within the discipline
- Develop strategies for educating students about plagiarism within the context of the discipline (create specific assignments)
- Discuss ways that plagiarism could be included in subsequent courses in the discipline

Prevention

- Software as tools to improve writing skills:
 - *Refworks*
 - *Turnitin*
- Web Portal for tools, tips, and sample exercises to help students learn skills such as how to paraphrase properly

Consistency

- Interpret the university's definition of plagiarism and broaden it to include similar offenses (such as “double-dipping”)
- Discuss less-common instances/examples of plagiarism (case studies involving plagiarized ideas instead of published documents)
- Discuss “best practices” regarding plagiarism, including:
 - Officially report ALL instances of plagiarism
 - See if student has plagiarized in the past
 - Unit “consultants” (experienced in cases of plagiarism)
- Develop a matrix to define when certain sanctions are appropriate

Rehabilitation

- “Plagiarism School”

Assessment

- Create a central database that tracks all cases of plagiarism throughout the university
- As part of Plagiarism School, students could be asked to provide their own analysis of their act of plagiarism
- Compares a paper in its draft form to the final version perhaps using a detection service (Turnitin)
- A pre and post test could be incorporated into the University Orientation course to get instant assessment of the orientation instruction. Use of an audience response system would assist in this effort

Combating Student Plagiarism

February 16, 2007

Rob Kairis
Library Director
Stark Campus

Margaret Wick
Assistant Professor
Communications Studies

Rozell Duncan
Assistant Professor
Communications Studies

Marian Maxfield
Graduate Assistant
Education Technology & Distributed Learning