

Plagiarism and Research

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This presentation covers:

- Pertinent questions about plagiarism
- Defining plagiarism
- Types of plagiarism
- Why do students plagiarise?
- Warning
- Real life consequences of plagiarism
- Unisa's policy on plagiarism and copyright
- How can you avoid plagiarism?

Pertinent questions about plagiarism

- What is plagiarism?
- When can you be accused of plagiarism?
- What are the consequences of plagiarism
- Why do students plagiarise?



Plagiarism defined

- Plagiarism: from Latin words: plagiarus (kidnapper, seducer, plunderer, thief; plagium (kidnapping); plaga (snare, net) (Park, 2003).
- Plagiarism: inappropriate, unauthorized, unacknowledged use of someone else's ideas as if they were original or common knowledge; incomplete or vague references that tend to mislead the reader into misidentifying one person's ideas for another (Gotterbarn, Miller & Impagliazzo, 2006); Plagiarism involves literary theft, stealing (by copying) (Park, 2003).
- Act of academic theft, cheating
- Unethical, illegal, dishonest

Types of plagiarism

Intentional (knowingly)

- Copying a friend's work
- Buying or borrowing papers
- Cutting and pasting blocks of text from e-sources
- Media "borrowing" without
- Web publishing without permission of creators

Unintentional/inadvertently /unknowingly)

- Careless paraphrasing
- Poor documentation
- Quoting excessively
- Failure to use your voice

From: khs.sbo.hampton.k12.va.us/files/plagiarism.ppt

Why do students plagiarise?

- *Searching versus researching:* overwhelmed, intimidated by standards already evident in produced work, interpretive and analytical skills – better in one's own words
- *Pressure to qualify:* pressure (from peers, family, employer, etc) – focus on results rather than active work to be done
- *Bad planning:* underestimating demands of work to be done, leaving it until the last moment – time, resources, scheduling, etc
- *Confusing citation techniques:* improper techniques
- *Paraphrasing problems:* keep the gist of the original, but put it in your own words
- *Expectations:* mere reporting is unacceptable, get the message clear
- *Different perspectives on plagiarism:* individual's perspective versus community's perspective

Do not be fooled, you will be caught out!

Internet and plagiarism:

- On one hand: easier to plagiarise
- On the other hand: provides strategies to prevent plagiarism, e.g.:

<http://www.turnitin.com/>

<http://www.millikin.edu/wcenter/plagiarism3.html>



Real life consequences of plagiarism

- Damaged reputation:
 - Kearns left TV position and stepped down as Pulitzer Prize judge for “lifting” 50 passages for her 1987 book, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys* (Lewis)
- Senator Joseph Biden dropped his 1987 campaign for the democratic presidential nomination – Copied in law school and borrowed from campaign speeches of Robert Kennedy
- Boston Globe journalist, Mike Barnicle, forced to resign for plagiarism in his columns (“Boston Columnist . . .”)
- Probe of plagiarism at UVA – 45 students dismissed, 3 graduate degrees revoked
 - [CNN Article](#) AP. 26 Nov. 2001
 - [Channel One Article](#) AP. 27 Nov. 2002

From: www.boe.qacps.k12.md.us/qhs/teachers/Boones/plagiarism.ppt

Unisa's policy on plagiarism and copyright

- When your work is not authentically yours – without proper acknowledgment – whether intentionally or unintentionally
- Unauthorised reproduction of a substantial part of another's work
- Copyright is IPR and bears economic rights – must not be infringed
- Academic dishonesty is unethical
- Material gained through dishonesty adds nothing to the existing knowledge
- Copying information from another person; submitting identical work where such work is not the result of teamwork and indicated as such by all participants
- buying an essay from a ghost writing service
- asking someone else to do an assignment on your behalf

Unisa (2005): Policy for copyright infringement and plagiarism

Unisa's policy on plagiarism and copyright

3.3 Infringement:

- 3.3.1 failure to indicate clearly (e.g. with quotation marks or indent and different font) phrases/passages taken verbatim from published or unpublished text without crediting the original text and author;
- 3.3.2 paraphrasing of article, book or e-text without acknowledging source and author of the work. This amounts to reproducing a text in different words as the author, by changing the word order of the text, the sentence types and the style of the author;
- 3.3.3 using more than a substantial part of the work will not be fair dealing, even if an acknowledgement of the source and the author is given.
- Citation: form of respect for the relevant author's proprietary rights.
- Fair use is a form of respect for the author's economic rights

Unisa (2005): Policy for copyright infringement and plagiarism

How can you avoid plagiarism?

- Use your own words and ideas
- Acknowledge copied, adapted and paraphrased material
- Do not use other scholars' work with minor changes
- Do not fall in the trap of common knowledge

Conclusion

Plagiarism

Avoid it at all costs!