

Plagiarism Research Paper (Rough Draft)

Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking another person's writing, conversation, song, or even idea and passing it off as your own which includes information from webpages, conversation, song, television shows, email messages, interviews, articles, artworks or any other medium. In order to understand plagiarism, it helps to understand the process of sharing and creating ideas in the university. "All knowledge is built from previous knowledge. As we read, study, perform experiments, and gather perspectives, we are drawing on other people's ideas" (Brookes G, 1989). Building on their ideas and experiences, we create our own.

In this increasingly digital age, student plagiarism is rampant. Roughly half of college students admit to plagiarizing using content found online, directly copying and pasting the work of others (Robert A. Harris, 2001). Students plagiarize content from a myriad of sources—wikis, blogs, online journals, newspaper articles, as well as purchase papers on demand from the more than 100 online essay web sites. Students can find videos online that will teach them how to cheat and get away with it by cutting and pasting from multiple sources and piecing them together so that their plagiarism is harder to detect.

Why do people care about plagiarism?

Plagiarism is also called as "copycat syndrome". Taking credit for anyone else's work is stealing, and it is unacceptable in all academic situations, whether you do it intentionally or by accident. Everyday people struggle in order to complete their work on time, and to complete it on time, they work hard. Their hard work pays off if someone else is using their work, but they do care if the person using their work doesn't cite them. That's when the people care about plagiarism, when the other person is using his work, the author must make sure that he is citing the source, because without the idea of others, the person's work is impossible to work.

Avoiding Plagiarism

There are three things you need to do to avoid plagiarism: Think, Write, and Signal (Jones, D. L. R.2011). The main way to avoid plagiarism is to cite your sources. If the source is used without citing, you are implying that the information came itself. Citing the sources gives proper credit to the original authors, and it also lets the readers find the original source if they want to learn more. Many writers try to avoid plagiarism by simply changing a few words or putting sentences in a different order. But even if a thesaurus is used to change every word, the original author's sentence structures are unchanged. To properly use another author's idea, one should rewrite it in their own words (while still citing the original source). If it's not possible to rewrite it, then an exact quote with quotation marks must be used. The way one cites the sources will vary depending on how formal it need to be. For example, if it's a blog article it's often enough to simply link to the original source. You may also want to mention the original author's name and/or the name of the website to help the readers tell at a glance where the information is coming from. If it's writing a more formal paper, we generally need to use a specific format for citations. For these types of citations, you may list the sources as footnotes or include a bibliography at the end (or both).

We should recognize the many reasons that students turn in plagiarized essays. Part of teaching students how to avoid problems is to make them understand their reasoning and

acknowledging the differences between intentional and unintentional misrepresentation. Clearly, some students make the conscious decision to cheat (Brookes G, 1989). Whether they are lazy, feel some pressure to receive a higher grade, or realize that they do not have time to write a paper on their own; these students buy, steal, or copy someone else's work and turn it in as their own. Although many of these students may still ultimately choose to cheat, we can discourage them from plagiarizing if we help them understand the consequences of their actions and teach them better time management and writing strategies (Talab, R. 2004). Even students making a good faith effort to avoid plagiarism can run into problems.

There are certain steps to avoid plagiarism especially for students:

Teach proper note-taking skills; Review the conventions of quoting and documenting material; Require multi-drafts of essays and make them to submit photocopies of documented material; Provide proper proofreading guidelines; Offer proper collaboration guidelines; Offer response appropriate to the type of error.

Finally, we need to remember that for most students the conventions of academic acknowledgment and documentation prove difficult to understand and master. Although some students try to pass their classes by plagiarizing work, most of our students approach their courses with sincerity and integrity. Helping them learn the scholarly conventions is a job we all share and one that requires the same patience and understanding that we use when teaching any other academic skill.

Bibliography

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