

PLAGIARISM

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, **PLAGIARISM** is:

1. To steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another person) as one's own.
2. To use (another's production) without crediting the source.
3. To commit literary theft.
4. To present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

WHAT is plagiarism?

WHY do students plagiarize?



Unengaging assignments
the assignment is not interesting enough to engage them and they look for a simple answer



Popularity of the wrong behavior
can encourage students to do the same



Lack of knowledge of plagiarism standards
students don't know they are plagiarizing



Bad time management & Unrealistic time constraints
they leave their work till the last minute and then find a quick solution, just copy



Fear of failing
can cause students to take the easy way out by copying others without even trying themselves



Conditional implementation of fair use rules

Many copyright issues are complex and they are evaluated depending on the conditions such as intentions and financial gains of the users



Not getting caught previously

may suggest to students that it is not a big deal and they can do it again

HOW to know if someone plagiarized?

1. Read critically for formatting, style and tone changes
2. Use online plagiarism detection tools
3. Research web with search engines for small portions of text
4. Check if the ideas and citations match
5. Discuss the ideas with the student

HOW to respond if your students plagiarize

Try to understand why your student has plagiarized and respond accordingly.

1. Discuss with the student if it is a gray area case.
2. Show the student clear evidence of plagiarism.
3. Emphasize that what they have done is cheating and it is morally wrong.
4. Be consistent and implement the punishments that were already discussed while assigning the homework.
5. Remind them the consequences of plagiarism.
6. Help them empathize by asking them to learn more about the person whose ideas they have stolen.
7. Ask them to study on the subject of the homework if they feel incompetent.
8. Stress their membership in a community of scholars to which they are also contributing as well as borrowing knowledge.



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