



The Anti-Plagiarism Strategies

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Introduction

- Academic resources in electronic format → plagiarism easier → horror to faculty members
- Web has aided in the increase of plagiarism
- Just a few mouse clicks → copy and paste paragraphs or even entire essays
- Awareness of cyberplagiarism → to prevent
- Anti strategies → combat plagiarism → encourage students to value and place and effort in their own work



Plagiarism

- Shelly Yeo definition:

Plagiarism means knowingly presenting the work or property of another person as one's own, without appropriate acknowledgement or referencing.

- "The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity" → "an unacceptable form of misbehavior, and a violation against other researchers."

- Swedish Research Council → topic of misconduct in research

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Famous examples

- Lam v. Koo and Ho: Theft of a measurement questionnaire which examined high incidence of lung cancer among non-smoking Chinese women (Nature, 1995)

- Turkish professors uncover plagiarism in papers posted on Physics Server: arXiv (The Chronicle of Higher Education, 2007)

- JISC (Joint Information System Committee) in 2008 → average of 1.19 per cent of postgraduate → compared to 0.67 per cent of undergraduates (The Independent, 2010)

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Strategies

- Frequency of plagiarism vary widely
 1. From less than 5% to over 80%
 2. Variation according to academic discipline
 3. Level of study
 4. Nationality
- Strategies of Awareness
- Strategies of Prevention
- Strategies of Detection

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Awareness

- Understand why students cheat
 1. Poor time management and planning skills
 2. Weak writing ability
 3. Unintentional
 4. Resources & language barrier
 5. Pressure

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Awareness

- Educate yourself about plagiarism
 1. Downloading a free research paper
 2. Buying a paper from a commercial paper mill
 3. Copying an article from the Web / electronic database / local source
 4. Cutting and pasting to create a paper from several sources
 5. Quoting less than all the words copied
 6. Faking a citation

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Awareness

- Educate your students about plagiarism
 1. Do not assume that students know
 2. Provide an explicit definition for them
 3. Discuss difference between appropriate, referenced use of ideas or quotations and inappropriate use
 4. Clarify combination of stealing and lying
 5. Questioning the part that is being cheated

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Awareness

- Discuss the benefits of citing sources
 1. Strengthening their writing
 2. Performing research work → synthesized the findings
 3. Becoming knowledge workers themselves → earning at least part of their living creating information products
→ maintaining a respect for intellectual property and the proper attribution of ideas and words.

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Awareness

- Make the penalties clear
 1. Institutional policy → quote it in your syllabus
 2. Personal policy → specify the penalties involved
 3. Dismissal / Course failure...
 4. Positive light →

4.1 Honest students respected and valued,

4.2 Fake students punished substantially

In terms of postgrads one thing you could mention is
that if they are carrying out primary research by

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Prevention

- Training students → what constitutes plagiarism → how to handle this
 - Definition
 - Types
 - Awareness of paper mill websites
- Peer-review system
- In class discussions:
 - Chalk Talk in the Classroom
 - Skills - offer research tips
 - External help and writers
- Inclusion of material on plagiarism available for all
 - Syllabus - Plagiarism, Intellectual Property, Academic Integrity
 - Academic Dishonest Policy

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Prevention

- More tangible advice:
 - ✓ Require specific components in the paper
 - ✓ Stress analysis and criticism component
 - ✓ Require process steps for the paper
 - ✓ Require regular meetings and update reports on progress
 - ✓ Require oral reports of student papers
 - ✓ Have students include an annotated bibliography
 - ✓ Require most references to be up-to-date
 - ✓ Provide referral: points of reference
- Role of supervisors
 - ✓ Instigate activity
 - ✓ Positive relationship
 - ✓ "Safe" class environment
 - ✓ Guidance and availability
 - ✓ Transparency

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Detection

- Time consuming
- Sufficient time to verify questions surrounding unethical practices
- Gut feeling:
 - Your expertise of the subject matter
 - You are familiar with students' writing styles and abilities
- Clues ➔ courtroom proof of plagiarism ➔ alert for investigation
- Use these clues profitably in a discussion with the student in your office

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Detection

- Look for inconsistencies in
 - Quality of Writing
 - Formatting
 - ✓ Font Size
 - ✓ Font Style
 - ✓ Page Numbering
 - ✓ Web URLs
 - ✓ Embedded Hyperlinks
 - ✓ Spelling: American vs British spellings

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Detection

- Look internal evidence
 - Mixed citation styles
 - Lack of references or quotations
 - Unusual formatting
 - Off topic
 - Signs of datedness
 - Anachronisms
 - Anomalies of diction
 - Anomalies of style
 - Smoking guns
 - Know where the sources of papers are

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Detection

- Search for the paper online
- Use software that compares the handed in text to document collections to find similar text
 - To confirm or disprove the suspicion
 - To apply the detection process on all work submitted by all students
 - To protect their intellectual property by uploading
 - Proactive
 - ✓ To detect and deter misconduct
 - ✓ To develop the skills of scientific writing and referencing

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