

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

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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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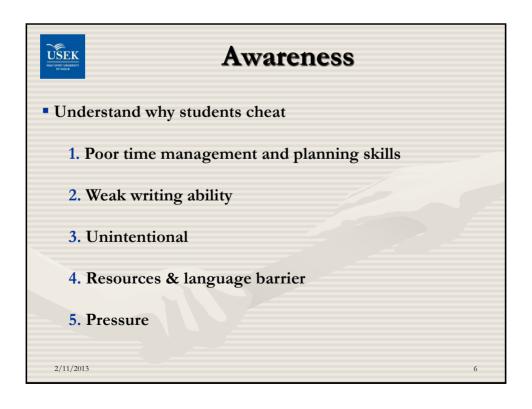


Famous examples

- 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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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 \rightarrow 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
 - ^{2/11/2013} Transparency



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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