

Plagiarism Lesson

1. Review definition of plagiarism
2. Review consequences of plagiarism
3. Remind students about online cheating and methods to catch them.
4. Activity
 - Pretend that the class is writing a research paper about [topic]. Have a variety of library books on this topic available to students, as well as samples of student writing from previous research assignments.
 - Students break into 5 groups. Each group is assigned a specific type of plagiarism. Groups will have 15 minutes to create part of a research paper that is plagiarized in their specific format. (NOTE: consider giving #3 and #4 to higher level students.) Have appropriate books/student work available.
 - **Group 1: “Ghost Writer”** The writer turns in another’s work, word-for-word, as his or her own.
 - **Group 2: “The Photocopy”** The writer copies significant portions of text straight from a single source, without alteration.
 - **Group 3: “The Potluck Paper”** The writer tries to disguise plagiarism by copying from several different sources, tweaking the sentences to make them fit together while retaining most of the original phrasing.
 - **Group 4: “The Labor of Laziness”** The writer takes the time to paraphrase most of the paper from other sources and make it all fit together, instead of spending the same effort on original work.
 - **Group 5: “The Self Stealer”** The writer “borrows” generously from his or her own previous work, violating expectations that each assignment be original.

MOST LIKELY END OF DAY 1 – Have students submit anything they need made into transparencies (the plagiarized paper they create, sections of the research books that were copies, etc.) and make overheads by the following class period.

- Give groups their transparencies. Students will have 10 minutes to plan their class presentation. One person should act as the student/plagiarizer, and another student should act as the teacher who caught the student. Remind students that the objective is to teach the class about their particular method of plagiarism.
 - Presentations. All groups make presentations to teach the class about their assigned type of plagiarism.
5. Closure – Discuss methods to avoid plagiarism (note-taking strategies, bibliographies) and teach these skills in the upcoming days.

Group Assignments: Cut these out and give one to each group.

Group #1

Your task: Plagiarize a mock research paper using the specific method listed below. Prepare a class presentation to teach the class about this type of plagiarism.

Your type of plagiarism is: GHOST WRITER

This is when a writer turns in another person's work, word-for-word, as his/her own.

Group #2

Your task: Plagiarize a mock research paper using the specific method listed below. Prepare a class presentation to teach the class about this type of plagiarism.

Your type of plagiarism is: THE PHOTOCOPY

This is when a writer copies significant portions of a text from a single source, without alteration.

Group #3

Your task: Plagiarize a mock research paper using the specific method listed below. Prepare a class presentation to teach the class about this type of plagiarism.

Your type of plagiarism is: POTLUCK PAPER

This is when the writer tries to disguise plagiarism by copying from several different sources, tweaking the sentences to make them fit together while retaining most of the original phrasing.

Group #4

Your task: Plagiarize a mock research paper using the specific method listed below. Prepare a class presentation to teach the class about this type of plagiarism.

Your type of plagiarism is: LABOR OF LAZINESS

This is when the writer takes the time to paraphrase most of the paper from other sources and make it all fit together, instead of spending the same effort writing an original work.

Group #5

Your task: Plagiarize a mock research paper using the specific method listed below. Prepare a class presentation to teach the class about this type of plagiarism.

Your type of plagiarism is: SELF STEALER

This is when the writer “borrows” generously from his or her own previous writing assignments, violating expectations that each assignment be original.