

How to Discourage Plagiarism

Plagiarism can be deterred. Here are some classroom tested ways to discourage academic dishonesty.

1. Discuss what intellectual dishonesty is.

Ask your students to define it and how to avoid it.

When you take an idea, a writing, a graphic, music composition, art or datum of another without giving proper credit and presenting or attempt to present it as your own, you have committed plagiarism.

Intellectual dishonesty also involves taking written materials of one's own that have been used for a previous course assignment and using it without acknowledgement.

2. Discuss plagiarists' excuses:

- a. "I didn't know it was plagiarism"
- b. "I don't know how to cite the passages correctly"
- c. "I thought that by citing it in my bibliography it wasn't plagiarism"
- d. "I thought by citing it in text I didn't plagiarize"
- e. "I don't remember where I found the information so I couldn't cite it"
- f. "I paraphrased; I didn't use the same words"
- g. "I only lifted a few words"
- h. "I didn't plagiarize because it wasn't intentional"
- i. "I must have inadvertently memorized the passage"
- j. "I simply forget to properly credit the source"
- k. "I was distracted by [family problems, illness, stress]"
- l. "It's a novice mistake"

3. Provide examples of proper and improper paraphrasing.

When paraphrasing or summarizing others' work you must reproduce the exact meaning of the other author's ideas or facts using your own words and sentence structure.

Does the following example constitute plagiarism?

The lost-wax casting process (also called *cire perdue*, the French term) has been used for many centuries. It probably started in Egypt. By 200 BCE the technique was known in China and ancient Mesopotamia and was soon after used by the Benin peoples in Africa. It spread to ancient Greece sometime in the sixth century BCE and was widespread in Europe until the eighteenth century, when a piece-mold process came to predominate.

--Marilyn Stokstad, *Art History*, Volume Two (New York, Prentice Hall, Inc. and Harry Abrams, Inc., 1995), 31.



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The paraphrase:

The lost-wax casting process is an ancient method for making metal sculpture. While the ancient Egyptians appear to have been its first practitioners, other cultures around the world also developed or imported the technique. Introduced to Europe by the ancient Greeks in the sixth century BCE, lost-wax casting remained an important artistic method up to the eighteenth century (Stokstad, 31).

4. Rules to remember:

Give credit where credit is due.

When in doubt, give credit

For more information, see:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/college-success/10314.html>