

LESSON PLAN 76: PLAGIARISM

Objective: Learn about the issues and consequences of copying

Age range: 9-18



WHAT IS PLAGIARISM?

It's the practice of copying someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as your own. The term comes from the Latin word *plagiarius*, which means kidnapper or literary thief. It's an important issue, not just at school but throughout our lives. However, it can be a tricky subject to understand, so it's crucial for students to learn about it and realise the consequences.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Honesty, ethics, copyright law, self-confidence, accuracy, referencing, literacy, research.

YOU WILL NEED

Computer and internet access.

METHOD

1. Introduce and explain 'plagiarism'.
2. Talk with your students about why it's an issue in the classroom. Discuss how it's a form of cheating because it's taking another person's ideas, and can have not just moral and ethical but also legal implications.
3. Look at how, why and where plagiarism can happen, and identify ways to prevent it.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Here is a selection of resources that will help you to explain and illustrate the concept of plagiarism to your class.

- **Plagiarism.org** (plagiarism.org) – this site offers comprehensive information on plagiarism for teachers and students.
- **What is plagiarism and how do I avoid it?** (fizurl.com/copynetsafe) – here you'll find a good source of information and advice from NetSafe.
- **Plagiarism** (otago.ac.nz/study/plagiarism/) – a review of plagiarism and its implications compiled for students by Otago University.
- **You quote it, you note it!** (library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/) – an animated slideshow looking at some of the

differences between quoting, paraphrasing, referencing, citing, and so on.

- **What is plagiarism?** (fizurl.com/copyvideos) – a series of fun and informative videos on the subject.
- **Plagiarism Quiz** (fizurl.com/citingquiz) – test your knowledge by choosing if examples show plagiarism or not.
- **Plagiarism Game** (fizurl.com/copygame) – correctly answer questions on plagiarism to stop goblins taking over the school.



FIND OUT IF STUDENTS ARE USING THEIR OWN WORDS!

There are many online tools available that help you to detect if students have plagiarised text in their work. These include:

- **Grammarly** (grammarly.com)
- **Plagiarisma** (plagiarisma.net)
- **The Plagiarism Checker** (dustball.com/cs/plagiarism.checker/)
- **Plagiarism Checker** (plagiarismchecker.com/)
- **Plagium** (plagium.com)
- **Paper Rater** (paperrater.com)



WIKIPEDIA IS TOP SOURCE FOR PLAGIARISING

According to a recent US study, *Plagiarism and the Web: A Comparison of Internet Sources for Secondary and Higher Education Students*, Wikipedia tops the list for sources of plagiarised material. The study checked more than 33.5 million papers submitted to the Turnitin service over a one-year period (June 2010 to June 2011), and found 128 million 'content matches'. Wikipedia was used in 7.99 per cent of the cases of matched text by secondary students, ahead of Yahoo Answers (7.55) and Answers.com (3.37).

fizurl.com/copystudy

RELATED ARTICLE

Plagiarism: Catch classroom cheats – Issue 15, May 2009
Matthew Humber describes how ACG Strathallan College is using SafeAssign to guard against plagiarism.



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