

Dealing with Plagiarism

DETECTION

1. 'Smoking guns' - evidence that information was downloaded...
 - dates, URLs in corners of pages
 - mis-formatting (broken lines, weird symbols within text)
2. Visit cited URLs
3. Copy & paste a suspect paragraph into www.findsame.com or use full-text search engine such as Google, Northern Light or Fast Search.
4. Check references - are they all old? Are they unusual (e.g. all from USA)?
5. Check prose style - consistency and appropriate for this student?
6. Use plagiarism detector:
 - www.plagiarism.com
 - www.plagiarism.org (free trial!)
 - www.wordcheck.com
7. Discuss with student - ask them to 'explain in a different way' what they have written.

See also Jamie MacKenzie article....

The New Plagiarism : Seven Antidotes to Prevent Highway Robbery in an Electronic Age
<http://fno.org/may98/cov98may.html>

PREVENTION

Educate yourself

1. Understand why students cheat - usually last minute panic.
 - address time management by restructuring assignment & monitoring process.
2. Visit some cheat sites & let students know that you do.

Educate students

1. Do not assume students understand plagiarism - define & make penalties clear, discuss benefits of citations. Present it as an issue of fairness rather than arbitrary rule.
2. Teach them how to properly cite, how to construct bibliographies [see [Intranet](#)]
3. Take students to sites!
 - Deconstruct an example to demonstrate its failings
 - Use them to teach students proper citation of electronic sources or [how to evaluate sites/information](#)
 - Use for an assignment on ethics!

Assignment design

1. Make assignment & its requirements unique.
2. Ask questions that require students to make answers rather than find them!
3. Assess the process as well as the product.
4. Require students to choose from a list of specified topics.
5. Specify number/type of sources to be used e.g. pathfinder or hotlist on intranet.
6. Require a bibliography with up-to-date references.
7. Require a 'meta-learning' or evaluative response after assignment submitted, or include learning journal in task.
8. Use Blooms Taxonomy to set question.

Monitor process & progress

1. Check drafts before final assignment started.
2. Submit notes & drafts with final assignment.
3. 'Bibliography - draft - final copy'.
4. Require oral reports on assignments.
5. Watch students write; short conferences; check points.

References:

Leland, Bruce. *Plagiarism and the web*. <http://www.wiu.edu/users/mfbhl/wiu/plagiarism.htm>
Accessed 3 May 2003