



# About **Plagiarism**

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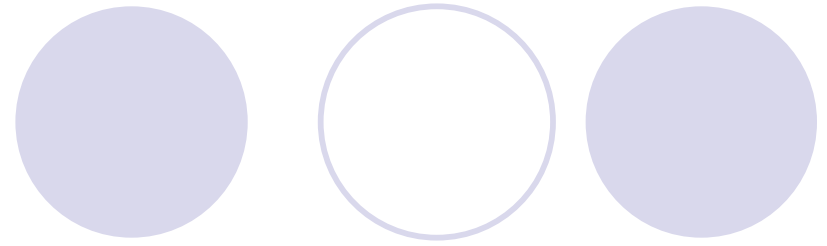
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And the answer is...

1. Plagiarism
2. Stealing
3. Violating a copyright
4. Tough. Everybody does it.

# Define “copyright”



- copy•right
- Function: *noun*  
: the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, sell, or distribute the matter and form of something (as a literary, musical, or artistic work)

# Proper use of copyrighted materials

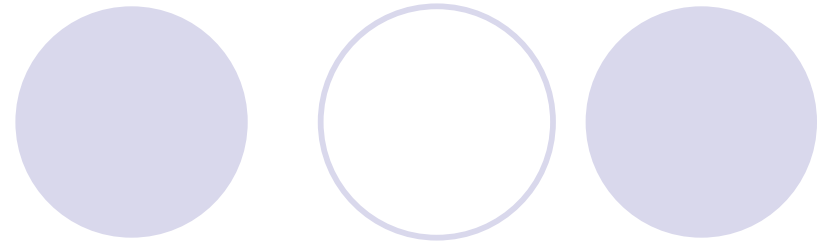
- Free use / public domain
- By permission / open permission
- Licensing
- Citing item
- Fair use

# Define “plagiarize”

- pla•gia•rize
  - *verb*
- ***transitive verb*** : to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (another's production) without crediting the source
- ***intransitive verb*** : to commit literary theft : present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

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# Some differences



- Copyright

- There can be a copyright infringement even if the source is properly acknowledged.
- Is addressed in federal statutes and case law.

- Plagiarism

- May be grounds for federal legal action because of the copyright infringement.
- In an academic environment, can also be subject to academic discipline.

# A BIG difference



- **An idea cannot be copyrighted.**

To be protected, the item has to be an original creative work recorded on a fixed medium.

- **It's entirely possible to plagiarize an idea.**

# Why do students plagiarize?

- Workload / school stress
- GPA
- Self defense--everybody does it
- Ignorance
  - Poor citation-building skills
  - Poor paraphrasing skills
  - Not sure when/how to use quotations
  - Incorrectly assuming that if it doesn't carry a copyright notice, it's not protected






And the big reason is...

- “If it’s on the Internet, it’s public knowledge, and I don’t have to cite it.”



And don't forget—it's *easy* to plagiarize!

- Electronic copy and paste features
- Online thesauri
- Term paper Web sites
- And the wealth of information available on the Web



# Look at what you're dealing with...

- Navigate to <http://www.google.com>, and search for:

term paper "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight"

# Educating our constituents...

- Faculty responsibility is defined in <http://www.csudh.edu/srr/who.htm>.
- See <http://www.csudh.edu/srr/faculty.htm> and <http://www.csudh.edu/srr/academic1.htm> for “three key things you should do in your classes....:
  1. Discuss the importance of academic integrity...
  2. Include clear, specific expectations on your syllabi.
  3. Remind students before each test...”



A sea change is needed for all of us regarding...

- The assumption that if it doesn't have a copyright notice, it's not protected.
- The assumption that it's ok to post a protected, or possibly protected, item on the Internet, as long as you take it down if the owner comes forth.
- *These are both backwards.*

# Tips for faculty



- State policy and consequences
- Define plagiarism
- Encourage consultations
- Be aware of Web resources in the topic area
- Give specific paper requirements
- Read all papers on same topic together
- Give examples of citations/formats to class
- Assign papers shorter than 6 pages

# More tips for faculty

- Drafts

- Ask for multiple or rough
- Create peer groups for comments

- Ask for:

- Photocopies of source title pages
- Annotated bibliography
- Original copy of paper
- Outlines

- Beware of a student's last minute change in topic

# Methods of detection



- Faculty know literature/research in their fields and sources related to the topics they assign
- Use the Web: e.g., Google can search for phrases



# Detecting Plagiarism



- Format different from requirements?
- Odd sentences stuck into paper?
- Bibliographic citations
  - Poorly written?
  - Incomplete?
  - Missing?

# Excellent online resources

- Cal Poly Pomona's [Plagiarism Quiz](#)
- Rochester Institute of Technology's Copyright and Plagiarism Tutorials, <http://wally.rit.edu/instruction/dl/cptutorial/>, which includes the notation:



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