

Assignment 1: Plagiarism

The article chosen for this assignment is *Article Writing* by Michael Russell. The author's intention in this article, is to shed light on the controversial phenomenon of plagiarism. In fact, Russell provides two different definitions of plagiarism from the dictionary, so that the readers interested by the topic can understand what it really consists of and to make sure that they are fully aware about the issues involved in plagiarism. Russell points out a situation where plagiarism was involved for lawsuit, such as the case of Dan Brown, the American author of the best-seller *The DaVinci Code*, whom was being accused of taking the idea from someone else's.

This article is also concerned about what is the boundary between plagiarism and general knowledge. Michael Russell raises an interesting question in his article: is rewording a sentence from someone else's work considered as plagiarism ? As a matter of fact, Russell concludes his article by stating that the act of plagiarism is often ambiguous (especially because it is somehow contradictory) and suggests that its definition should be

revised, by taking into consideration the context where it is used, as well as the possibility for the incidental use of someone's ideas in another person's work.

Plagiarism is well defined in this article: "a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work," the act of plagiarizing; taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own, a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work". Considering the definition stated above, plagiarism could be defined as using someone's exact words in your work and pretend it was written by you. (Russell, 2006)

Plagiarism	McGill University	Concordia University	Bishop's University	McMaster University	Yale University
1. Policy	<i>"No student shall, with intent to deceive, represent the work of another person as his or her own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report,</i>	<i>"The University defines plagiarism as: "The presentation of the work of another person, in whatever form, as one's own or without proper acknowledgment" (Concordia University)</i>	<i>"Academic dishonesty is a serious matter and all cases are referred to the Dean of Social Sciences. The University defines plagiarism (page 43 in Calendar) as..."representing the work of another as one's own".</i>	<i>"McMaster University defines plagiarism as to "submit academic work that has been, entirely or in part, copied from or written by another person without proper acknowledgment, or, for which previous credit has been obtained" (McMaster University, 2011)</i>	<i>"Yale regards cheating as a serious offense, for which the standard penalty is two semesters of suspension . But the much more grievous wrong is to the</i>

	<p><i>project or assignment submitted in a course or program of study or represent as his or her own an entire essay or work of another, whether the material so represented constitutes a part or the entirety of the work submitted.</i></p> <p><i>"</i></p> <p><i>(McGill University, 2011)</i></p>		<p><i>Avoid the situation in which you feel that cutting corners is the only way out. To use material without identifying its source or to re-submit a thinly-veiled modification of the previous work is NOT acceptable; it is one form of plagiarism."</i></p> <p><i>(Bishop's, 2011)</i></p>		<p><i>cheating student."</i></p> <p><i>(Yale College, 2001)</i></p>
<p>2.Sanction</p>	<p><i>Penalties may apply, depending of the offense and the department . Refer to the Green Book.</i></p>	<p><i>The Professor will file an incident report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>You will be asked to come to an interview with the Associate Dean.</i> • <i>If the charge is upheld, one or more of the following sanctions will be</i> 	<p><i>"The normal penalty for a first offence is a zero grade in the component of the course in which the dishonesty occurred.</i></p>	<p><i>"If you are unsure whether or not to reference a source, err on the side of caution and do so anyway, as the sanctions</i></p>	<p><i>"Submission of an entire paper prepared by someone else is an especially egregious form of</i></p>

	<p>(McGill University, 2011)</p>	<p>given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A letter of reprimand ○ Resubmit the assignment or redo the exam ○ A grade of "0" in the assignment, exam or course ○ A failing grade in the course with no right to a supplemental exam ○ Requirement to take up to an additional 24 credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of a second offence, one or more of the following sanctions will also be given in addition to the possible sanctions above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suspension of up to three years ○ Expulsion from the University • A charge of academic misconduct will appear on your student record. <p>(Concordia University)</p>	<p>However, in a case of particular seriousness, or in the case of a repeated offence, penalties may include a zero grade in the course, suspension for one semester or longer, or expulsion from the university." (Bishop's, 1999)</p>	<p>for plagiarism may be quite severe." (McMaster University, 2011)</p>	<p>plagiarism, and is grounds for the imposition of a particularly serious penalty, even for expulsion from the University. " "Sanction can imply suspension" (Yale College, 2001)</p>
--	----------------------------------	--	---	---	--

<p>3. Prevention</p>	<p>"When writing a paper try to use your own words the majority of the time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When you do use another person's words, use quotation marks and give credit to the source, either within the text or in 	<p>"When you write a research paper, you have to explain where you got your information. Some of the ideas you use will be your own, but many will have come from information you have read and people you have interviewed about the topic. To explain where the information comes from, you have to give (cite) the source correctly." (Concordia University)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> "closely paraphrase (alter words but not meaning) the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; borrow, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as your own though borrow, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as your own though 	<p>"Avoid cutting and pasting paragraphs or portions from electronic sources directly into your document. Either cut and paste the entire phrase and place quotation marks around it, noting the URL, or print the page (which includes the URL) for your future use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Become intimately acquainted with the citation reference guide most commonly used by 	<p>"Every academic discipline has its own conventions for acknowledging sources. Your instructor should make clear which conventions you must use. But even if you're confused about the specific punctuation and formatting, you must make clear in your written work where you have borrowed from others—whether data, opinions, questions, ideas, or specific language. This obligation holds whether</p>
----------------------	--	---	--	---	--

	<p>a footnote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do n't make slight variations in the language and then fail to give credit to the source . If the expression is essentially the same, the author stil 		<p>ts; where such ideas, if they were your own, would contribute to the merit of the work submitted" (Bishop's, 2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your faculty. • Retain all reference and research materials, including previous versions of your work. • Practice three-column note taking: in the first, capture the entirety of the text being used, in the second, attempt to paraphrase 	<p>the sources are published or unpublished. (Yale College, 2001)</p>
--	--	--	---	---	---

	<p><i>l des erv es cre dit.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If yo u'r e uns ure , ad d the foo tno te or cit ati on. It is bet ter to be ext ra ca uti ous tha n not giv e cre dit wh en yo u sho uld ."</i> 			<p><i>it, and in the third, relay your own impre ssion s.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Devel op good acade mic and time mana geme nt skills, and avoid procr astin ation' , (Mc Mast er Unive rsity, 2011)</i> 	
--	---	--	--	---	--

	(McGill University, 2011)				
4. Resources	<p>"Ask questions about team work and citation style from your instructor or TA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand a disciplinary officer's allegations of an academic offence, speak to the Office of the 	<p>"Learn more about citation and style guides by visiting the Concordia Library Citation Guides website" (Concordia University)</p>	<p>Nothing mentioned about this.</p>	<p>"Make use of RefWorks, an online bibliography and database manager that you may access from the McMaster Library's research portal</p> <p>(McMaster University, 2011)</p>	<p>"Cheating, Plagiarism and Documentation", Yale College Writing Center. (Yale College, 2001)</p>

	<u>De</u> <u>an</u> <u>of</u> <u>St</u> <u>ud</u> <u>ent</u> <u>s</u> o r a <u>s</u> <u>tud</u> <u>ent</u> <u>ad</u> <u>vis</u> <u>or</u> fro m the Le gal Inf or ma tio n Cli nic " (M cG ill Un ive rsit y, 20 11)				
--	---	--	--	--	--

I believe that the one of the elements that may lead to plagiarism is procrastination. This behavior is well known by a lot of students and can greatly affect academic performance and I believe that leaving everything until the last minute fosters plagiarism. This phenomenon can also be caused by the blank page syndrome, especially because this can

highly affect self-confidence and unfortunately it often occurs when someone engages in a long writing process. Finally, plagiarism can be caused by a lack of organization, which often brings the person to feel anxious about the idea of handing in a low quality assignment. As a matter of fact, I think that being organized is an essential asset for a student, so that he or she does not end up cheating.

Prevention against plagiarism should first of all contain an educational aim. In fact, students should be aware of the unethical aspect of this behavior. In addition, they must realize how frustrating it can be for someone, to have his work stolen and used for someone's interests. Second of all, people should be taught how to paraphrase or cite properly an author's work to avoid this incident to occur. Finally, the students should be severely punished for plagiarizing and the educational institutions should not be lenient with recidivists.

Friends can be influential for everyone, either positively or negatively. Someone who is in lack of inspiration, can simply talk to his friend about his blank page syndrome and his answer can be: "Why do you bother ? Just copy paste it !". This simple and short answer

can have a significant impact on someone's guilt, because this person will think that if it is good for his friends, then it is good for him. Another context where plagiarism is more likely to happen, is with the use of social network, especially nowadays. For instance, a student's group on facebook can easily post the answers for an exam, especially for an online one or even for a take home.

Bibliography

Russell, M. (2006, July 01). Article writing - plagiarism. Retrieved from
<http://ezinearticles.com> website: <http://ezinearticles.com/?Article-Writing---Plagiarism&id=234756>

McGill University. (2011, September 15). Student rights and possibilities. Retrieved from
McGill University website: <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/students/>

Concordia University. (2011). What is plagiarism? Retrieved from Concordia University
website: <http://provost.concordia.ca/academicintegrity/plagiarism/>

Bishop's University. (1999, January). Policy on academic integrity. Retrieved from
Bishop's University website:
http://www.ubishops.ca/fileadmin/bishops_documents/admin_governance/u_policies/Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf

Bishop's University. (2011). Resources. Retrieved from Bishop's University website:
[http://www.ubishops.ca/academic-programs/social-sciences/environmental-studies-
geography/resources.html#c314](http://www.ubishops.ca/academic-programs/social-sciences/environmental-studies-geography/resources.html#c314)

McMaster University. (2011). Academic integrity. Retrieved from McMaster University
website:
<http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/students/typeofad/plagiarism/index.html>

Yale College. (2011). Cheating, plagiarism, and documentation. Retrieved from Yale
College website: [http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/cheating-plagiarism-and-
documentation](http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/cheating-plagiarism-and-documentation)