

Title of Session: Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity - Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Moderator: Davina Pruitt-Mentle

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BjB: Welcome, everyone to the C3 Discussion. Davina Pruitt-Mentle is our discussion leader. She should be here shortly

BjB: while we wait for Davina, let's start with introductions

GlynnN: I'm a preservice teacher. I will be graduating from the University of Houston in 2 weeks.

DavinaP joined the room.

WendyS: Same here!

SusanaNC: Here from Del Valle in Argentina

BjB cheers for Davina. We've just started introductions

AmandaMG: Hi! I'm a pre-service teacher and I'm looking for new ideas on how to use the internet carefully in the classroom.

HeatherBu: I'm a Tech teacher in Texas

SusanVa: I'm Susan from Montreal, Quebec - I'm an educational consultant in technology

ArgeliaR: I am a student teacher, and I will also be graduating from the University of Houston in May.

AmandaMG: I'm also from University of Houston! Graduating in two weeks

HeatherBu cheers for our new teachers

JulieLI: I'm attending the University of Utah and trying how to figure out how to protect myself from internet woes

GlynnN: thanks!

MeghanA: I'm a preservice teacher (college junior) at William and Mary just checking out an ASO chat for the first time

DavinaP: welcome, I am Davina Pruitt-Mentle and director for ed tech policy research and outreach at the university of Maryland...

DavinaP: tonight's topic is...plagiarism

DavinaP: Academic Integrity

KennethM: I'm from Norfolk Virginia, an elementary Technology Facilitator and checking out the chat for the first time

AmandaMG: I've had a lot of problems with plagiarism in my fourth grade class!

SusanaNC: What a topic!!!

DavinaP: excellent I am sure you will all enjoy your experience

DavinaP: Amanda share what problems

DavinaP: others as well--a problem? or not so big a deal???

JulieLI: I don't think sixth graders can write a research report in their own words...they copy and paste because it's so easy.

AmandaMG: Well, after teaching what plagiarism is and ways to write good papers the students will still give me plagiarized papers.

HeatherBu: My middle school kids don't seem to realize that's what they are doing.

DavinaP: do you think they know that cut and paste is not the correct think to do--or has anyone discussed this with them?

HeatherBu: Even though we've been over it and over it, they think if they change the punctuation...

HeatherBu: that makes it unique

SusanaNC: most of times you can see it easily, because you know how much they know

AmandaMG: It's like they don't even try! I've had students turn in papers printed straight from the internet and called it their own.

SusanaNC: yes!!!

SusanaNC: they do it

WendyS: oh my gosh! in 4th grade?!?

DavinaP: interesting and what do you do next with the folks that "copy"

JulieLI: they know it's wrong, but the stuff they come up with is so different from what they've been reading that they don't feel they can do any better and just copy it.

SusanVa: Why are you asking questions that allow plagiarism? Ask for comparisons, analysis....

SusanaNC: good point

AmandaMG: I try to sit down with them and go over the proper techniques again, but they will still copy and paste.

MeghanA: just wondering, by going over what plagiarism is, do you provide an example of how to make text you read your own material, or do you just review rules that copy and paste is bad?

HeatherBu: I ask them to tell me in their own words, while I'm looking at the paper.

DavinaP: so where do you think the "problem" lies? any ideas are Ok here

BeckyGi: You have to start early - as soon as my daughter had to write a "research" paper in 4th grade, I explained what copyright was. We read a sentence, then I made her put it in her own words.

AmandaMG: No, I've showed them how to make text their own materials.

MeghanA: gotcha

BeckyGi: By the time they're in HS or college, if they don't know what plagiarism is, you've got a lot of work to do!

JulieLI: I recently assigned a report on whether or not dumbledore (harry potter) was dead or not...best papers yet because there weren't any encyclopedias to copy and paste. they were great and the kids got to see that they COULD write well.

AmandaMG: I think the kids just find it easier to copy and paste. What other ways can I steer them from plagiarism?

WendyS: give them topics they know about on their own without having to research too much, like Julie said

MeghanA: in the fifth grade classroom I'm observing, the teacher discussed the idea of plagiarism when we read a novel where a student got in trouble for entering someone else's poem in a writing contest...it seemed like a good way to get the students talking and thinking about it....don't know if it will keep them from doing it, but it's kind of a real-life situation that can remind them of what can happen

GailT: I allow time in the computer lab for research, but they have to write the paper in the classroom

AmandaMG: I like that idea about dumbledore! Using something they can't really plagiarize.

SusanVa: Ask questions from which they have to form opinions

BeckyGi: True! Copy and paste is very easy - and now with websites that will "write" a paper for you, it's hard to keep some kids from using that.

SusanVa: It's also more interesting when you have to think and not just parrot.

DavinaP: being more specific about the topic--as someone earlier mentioned compare events or women in WWII compared to

GailT: it's very hard to get them to write now because they really just expect to cut and paste.

GlynnN: good idea

AmandaMG: I would of loved to give my students time to write their papers in class, but my supervisor wouldn't allow it because of all the testing. I couldn't take up the class time.

DavinaP: having then utilize class notes ...or resources compared with discussion from class

MeghanA: the compare and analysis questions are good too, because that's what they'll be expected to do more later in high school and college...I'm always being asked to critique articles I read

DavinaP: having them turn in drafts along the way

GailT: good idea

MeghanA: I think it also helps to encourage them to take notes in their own words...if you take notes word for word, it's easier to write your paper in the same way

ArgeliaR: very true

HeatherBu: I'm able to have my kids do their writing on the computer, and then I can pull them up and make comments as they are working on them

KennethM: Maybe give them a paragraph and require them to put in it their own words would help. When Fourth graders come in the computer lab they have difficulty finding the information and tend to try and get answers to questions. Time is a big factor.

BjB: There is a graphic novel that you can download online about cyberethics
<http://www.law.duke.edu/cspd/comics/digital.html>

AmandaMG: Thanks! I'll have to take a look at it.

ArgeliaR: that sounds very interesting

SusanR: encourage the use of a range of resources

GailT: for some reason the students just don't get that plagiarizing is a form of cheating, if it's on the computer it ok to cut and paste.

DavinaP: for those students who do "copy" etc.... what are the consequences for their actions...by you ..by others by the school?

GailT: i do not give them any credit, cheating gets them a zero

WendyS: I haven't experienced this, but I think I would give them a 0 and make them do it again

SusanVa: Haven't we as teachers helped foster the notion that taking it from the computer isn't plagiarizing. We may not have encouraged it with writing, but many teachers allow copying images from the computer without attribution and think nothing of it.

BeckyGi: It's the same as not doing the assignment at all.

AmandaMG: Well my instructor told me to give them another chance and after that didn't work they had to receive a zero and talk to the principal.

GailT: Susan has a good point, do we insist on attribution for images?

DavinaP: do you go over with students at the beg of the term/year your expectations and the penalty etc...?

MeghanA: this doesn't have to do with paper writing, but my cooperating teacher says that he tells students that he will give both the cheater and the student who is cheating

zeros during a test...that way the student is forced to think about the consequences on other people for their actions

HeatherBu: Susan, I think you have made a very good point. We need to educate the teachers as well as the students.

HeatherBu: o O (giver and receiver are blessed with a zero)

GailT: I do go over expectations in the beginning of the year but I teach 11th grade and they really should know by then that cheating is not ok

AmandaMG: Well I plan to go over it with my students at the beg of the year, I haven't had the opp to since I entered at the last six weeks of the school year.

SusanVa: Why are we into punitive mode? Shouldn't we be helping students see the value of learning. We have to give them authentic tasks.

DavinaP: OK... I've heard that others have done that also--but I'm trying to get a sense of what expectations are done up front and then what follow through is taken...please share your own and other cases you have heard about

JulieLI: I have the daughter of an intellectual property attorney in my class this year, let me tell you I think twice before I copy anything!

GailT: cheating is a behavior that does need to be punished

DavinaP: Gail explain please

AmandaMG: They receive zeros and report to the principal who gives them a lecture and two detentions.

DavinaP: Julie I am sure she/he has seen a lot over the years

GailT: ok, if we do not give a student a zero for copied work they will continue to think that it is an acceptable behavior.

SusanVa: Cheating is a behaviour. The student needs to understand why it is a problem and to be helped to work other ways.

MeghanA: I think it's a matter of deterrence and we're hoping to prevent others from plagiarizing in the future

DavinaP: got it--so what do you feel is appro consequences for these infractions?

GlynnN: Susan, what do you mean by authentic tasks?

MeghanA: is there a good way to help prevent without punishing/

SusanVa: Tasks that engage students to think, to collaborate, to form opinions, to share with a wider audience...

WendyS: I think prevention w/o punishment might work in the beginning, but if students see that there will be no consequences for their actions, why not plagiarize?

GlynnN: ok, I see...thanks

DavinaP: following suit of what some post sec do some have started to try--first infractions ---zero for the work but attend sessions or seminars ...

SusanVa: Students in Bob Sprankle's class who are writing for podcasts that are heard around the world have a real reason to polish their work.

GlynnN: indeed

DavinaP: what are some other consequences you feel are approp...that you may use or have heard about

HeatherBu: If they can tell me in their own words, while I'm looking at the poor paper, they are allowed to go right back to the computer and fix it.

GailT: good idea

HeatherBu: If they can't, then we work together, looking at their sources again, and I have them TELL me, and then write it down

WendyS: Maybe they should be made to apologize to the person they plagerized from (writing an email to a web designer, etc)

MeghanA: well, for those kids who don't care too much about grades, you're going to have to find something else to possible take away, or add additional work they will have to do...just an idea

WendyS: taking responsibility for their actions

KennethM: Reject the work and have the student rewrite and have it signed by the parent.

GailT: yes, but how to do that is the hard part, Wendy

MeghanA: I like the idea of writing to the person they copied

SusanVa: Students need to understand why plagiarism is bad. We need to foster good writing (yes Heather) We need to make them want to write - it's not about grades.

JulieLi: I love Heather's ideas, but the doing of it isn't that easy time-wise

SusanVa: Teaching isn't easy.

DavinaP: so some seem to say a zero others perhaps reject and redo...when they redo do they get the full possible points?

AmandaMG: I like the idea of having the students orally present their work!

HeatherBu: Very true. But if I can invest the time in 7th or 8th, that will save their teacher in the upper levels.

DavinaP: Don McCabe of the Center for Academic Integrity (June, 2005) revealed:

WendyS: no full credit the second time around - 75 or 80% at most

SusanVa: Are they writing to get marks - or are they writing to learn to communicate?

AmandaMG: yes, I would give them the full possible points!

DavinaP: a study of 18,000 students at 61 schools:

KennethM: Take a grade but make them do the work. Oral presentation is good.

DavinaP: Over 70% of respondents from public and parochial schools admitted to one or more instances of serious test cheating.

WendyS: wow!

DavinaP: 60% admitted to plagiarism

DavinaP: Honor codes and modified codes help reduce academic misconduct

DavinaP: do you think honor codes would help?

MeghanA: I remember having to write honor pledge on every assignment in high school

WendyS: not really

AmandaMG: no!

MeghanA: after a while, it just became mundane and like writing my name

GailT: yes, I think honor codes would work with some students

JulieLI: help a little...with kids that don't really need the honor codes

SusanaNC: as always

ArgeliaR: at first, but then they lose the meaning

HeatherBu: Here's a resource I use with my middle school kids:

<http://www.cybersmart.org/home/>

DavinaP: excellent thanks for sharing

SusanaNC: thanks

AmandaMG: thanks

GailT: I like to think that our students will rise to the challenge of honor codes, if we expect it of them they will meet our expectations

DavinaP: here at the University of Maryland (College Park) in 2003-04 we had 58 cases of cheating and 113 plagiarism

DavinaP: and in 2004-05 89 cheating-180 plagiarism --see any trends?

GailT: those are the ones that you know about!

JulieLI: I think the responsibility lies with us, the educators, to educate not only in being honorable, but in how to be successful with out plagiarism, and for educators to assign meaningful assignments that reduce the possibility of plagiarism...like those ideas discussed.

DavinaP: yes the ones that went thru the judicial program review

GailT: yeah, it does seem rampant in high schools, is it due to wider societal norms?

WendyS: I agree Julie

MeghanA: me too...and I think it starts really early when kids are first learning to write

GailT: is it ok to cheat on assignments that are not meaningful?

JulieLI: of course not

MeghanA: you want to make them want to write and appreciate their own work, so they won't feel the need to copy what someone else said

JulieLI: but students are more likely to invest more, and care more if they find the work meaningful.

HeatherBu: No, but should we be giving assignments that are not meaningful?

ArgeliaR: definitely not

GailT: of course not!

SusanVa: Yes - Julie - I agree

DavinaP: here in MD we are trying to get a vertical articulation between K-16...in our beg stages of data collection we find that plag is only briefly at all addressed in local school system student codes of conduct and or Acceptable use policies---where does your school/school system handle this issue?

AmandaMG: I agree, as an elementary educator I believe we have to start teaching about plagiarism because if we ignore small ones they can grow as they get in upper levels and they will think it is acceptable

JulieLI: or interesting...

SusanVa: When I was in the classroom we had an acceptable use policy that talked about plagiarism. We discussed it at the beginning of each year from Grade 1 up

DavinaP: once a year? any more? how deep?

AmandaMG: Our school also discussed the acceptable use policy

JulieLI: we do too...and we go more in depth every year on what that means...hopefully that's what we do!

MeghanA: did you have contracts with the kids that required them to make a promise not to cheat?

JulieLI: yep.

AmandaMG: My teacher pulls it out whenever she sees the time is right. Usually after an offense has happened

BeckyGi: We put the acceptable use policy in every syllabus (I teach at a community college)

JeffC: http://www.turnitin.com/research_site/e_home.html is a good starting point for preventing plagiarism.

JulieLI: I try to discuss it before every major assignment.

AmandaMG: My school doesn't have any contracts. I think it is a great idea though and would like to implement one during my first year

DavinaP: most of the AUP are geared more towards what is not allowed for folks to do on the computers (viruses, porn sites, give out email accounts etc... out of the 24 LSS AUP only a5 addressed plag specifically and then it was only a brief sentence

ArgeliaR: I've had to use turnitin in college

GlynnN: me too

WendyS: I did too

SusanaNC: I don't know it

GailT: Davina, that's interesting, do you think that's because plag was not perceived as a problem?

DavinaP: we argue that a brief sentence when there are 20-25 other bullet points is probably not covered in detail at the beg of the year...I could be wrong

BeckyGi: we have separate ones - one for computer use, one that addresses plagiarism

JulieLI: no, you're right. the time most teachers bring it up is after there has been a problem.

DavinaP: excellent this is a great idea!!

HeatherBu: Becky, are they online (so we can plagiarize them <g>)

WendyS: Turnitin is a website where you make an account and turn in your assignments/papers - it automatically checks for plagiarism. The thought of that alone kept me from doing it

DavinaP: many also address "cheating" but not plag...and students (some) even at the college level do not associate the 2

GailT: yeah, I think that's part of the prob

GlynnN: I know a few people who liked to copy and paste and it was a deterrent for them. I thought it was funny. They were really complaining about it

DavinaP: cutting and pasting pieces into google works pretty well now as well--if one can not afford Turnitin

SusanaNC: isn't it free?

JulieLI: how does that google work?

WendyS: I don't think so....free for us UH students but I think the university had to pay for it

DavinaP: it costs usually a set fee for a district or unit on campus

JulieLI: sorry if that's a lame question, but how does google help eliminate the cutting and pasting problem?

GlynnN: the google thing is good to know...I was planning on trying that anyways

GlynnN: just copy and paste a sentence or two right?

DavinaP: just grab a sentence or two or a paragraph and dump it into Google

HeatherBu: Julie, I think it lets you quickly find the source.

GailT: find a sentence in the paper that does not look like to student wrote it and google that sentence.

JulieLI: oh! ok, i get it. thanks.

SusanaNC: Thanks

WendyS: good to know

AmandaMG: interesting

ArgeliaR: yeah, I didn't know about that

SusanaNC: But, should the student have used Google to copy and paste?

DavinaP: we have found it also helpful in sharing this exercise with students in K-12 --so they see how easy it is

AmandaMG: no, google will search from all the websites with a possible match.

SusanaNC: Great!!

JulieLI: I've actually done that before. as long as google is the search engine they used. my smarter students are trying others to avoid detection...smarties.

DavinaP: no papers are returned that might have the sentence or pieces or other resources that the students might have gotten the material from

DavinaP: Google is pretty strong--you can grab materials from other sites (other search engines) and still have Google retrieve

SusanVa: The search engines are searching the same pool of sites.

SusanaNC: And finally your student has to do the task again?

WendyS: I would make mine do it again

DavinaP: As I start to wrap up tonight's session I'd like us to think about many of the reasons you listed tonight for students "copying and pasting" as well as many of the strategies you mentioned to help students see the right path...I'd like cont next month on this topic and will also post several resources for reference...

SusanaNC: so would I

DavinaP: that you might find interesting ..stats and strategies

AmandaMG: Thanks for all the help! I got a lot of really good ideas.

JulieLI: thanks!

SusanaNC: Thanks

SusanaNC: it was really interesting

HeatherBu: Thank you, Davina.

GlynnN: very helpful

AmandaMG: thanks again!!

WendyS: thank you so much!!!!

ArgeliaR: thank you

DavinaP: I hope everyone will join us next month as we cont this "hot topic" and strategies to help our students and ourselves

GailT: thank you

MeghanA: thanks for allowing me to join in...it's cool to see teachers collaborating and talking about all these classroom situations

BjB: thanks, Davina. Stimulating discussion

DavinaP: any resources others would like to share to add to the list we create

GlynnN: I will definitely try to make the next one. Sounds like it will be very informative!

GlynnN: Thanks...

BeckyGi: thanks

DavinaP: bring ideas!!! see you next month