




Pitfalls Ahead! Helping Students Avoid Plagiarism

Gerry Solomon
Vinetta Bell
NCDPI




Background

Requests from LEAs
Urgency/timeliness
NCGP

North Carolina Graduation Project

- Research paper
- Product
- Portfolio
- Oral presentation



“Through the graduation project process, students will engage various specific skills that include: computer knowledge, employability skills, information-retrieval skills, language skills – reading, language skills – writing, teamwork, and thinking/problem-solving skills.”

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Plagiarism (vs. Copyright)

pla-gia-rize

to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own : use (another's production) without crediting the source

to commit literary theft : present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source


plagiarize. (2008). In Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. Retrieved September 29, 2008, from <http://www.merriam.com>.



What is Creativity? Before, Now, and Future

“Social software changes what it means to be creative. Very little may be truly original, as people appropriate content, adapt it for their needs, mix it up, and distribute it...”


Deubel, Patricia (April 2008). T.H.E. Journal. Retrieved February 13, 2009, from Crossroads in education: Issues for web 2.0, social software, and digital tools Web site: http://www.thejournal.com/articles/22454_1



The Ethics of American Youth – 2008 summary



“Cheating in school continues to be rampant and it's **getting worse...More than one in three (36 percent)** said they **used the Internet to plagiarize an assignment**. In 2006 the figure was 33 percent.”

Josephson Institute. (2009). The ethics of american youth – 2008 summary. Retrieved February 13, 2009, from Josephson Institute Center for Youth Ethics Web site: <http://charactercounts.org/programs/reportcard/index.html>




Current Culture

- Open environment of communication
- Ease of access to more information
- Greater sharing – amount and type of information


Changing Mores

- Perceptions of *Fair Use*
- Right and wrong in an information sharing environment
- Less uniformity re: ethical issues (cheating)
- Use of other's work (parents, peers, fee-based)



Role Models


Parents
Community
Educators



"Many of our students...lead lives nearly as hectic and stressful as our own. When I hear and see some of the assignments teachers give today – those that ask for no originality, require no higher-level thinking skills and make no attempt to be relevant to students' lives, I would posit that teachers and library media specialists share a portion of the blame for plagiarism..."


As educators, this is our ethical failing if our assignments do not help students learn necessary academic skills and necessary life-long skills."

Johnson, Doug (September 2004). The other side of plagiarism. Retrieved February 13, 2009, from Doug Johnson: Writing, Speaking and Consulting on School Technology and Library Issues. Web site: <http://www.dougjohnson.com/dougw/other-side-of-plagiarism.html>




Ending Topical Research!

"If we keep assigning topics, students will drive their earth moving equipment through the information landfill, pleased by the height and depth of the piles."




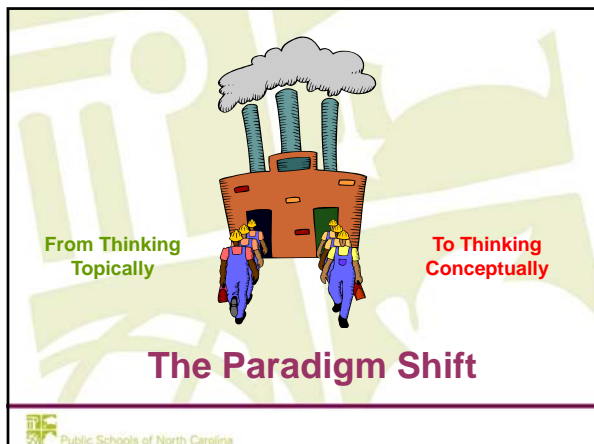
McKenzie, Jamieson (February 2007). Putting an end to topical research. From Now On: The Educational Technology Journal, Vol 16 No 3, Retrieved September 4 2008, from <http://www.etsjournal.com>



Assignments

- Questions vs. topics
- **Research skills**
- **Reading strategies**
- Note-taking
- **Citation and attribution**





Positive Proactivity vs.
Punitive Reaction

Resources

- Teachers
- Students
- Parents

An Educator's Guide to **Plagiarism:**
Avoiding the Copying Syndrome

"If you don't tell whose work it is, you are pretending the work is your own. This pretending is called 'plagiarism,' and it is just like cheating. It's not fair. It's not nice. It isn't OK. It's stealing."

Simpson, Carol Mann (2005). Copyright for schools 4th edition. Ohio: Linworth.

Guidelines and Resources for Avoiding Plagiarism
Curriculum, Instruction & Technology Division

Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

<http://www.ncwiseowl.org/it/plagiarism/default.htm>

Questions

Gerry Solomon
gsolomon@dpi.state.nc.us
Vinetta Bell
vbell@dpi.state.nc.us