PLAGIARISM: RECOGNIZING IT AND AVOIDING IT
99.9% of this presentation has been wholly or partially stolen, plagiarized, or lifted from other sources. Nothing should be considered the original thoughts of the presenter. Much of the following information can be found at: Plagiarism.org and UNC’s Writing Center Web site, unc.edu/depts/wcweb. Visuals from Microsoft Clip Art Gallery
Plagiarism

- **Defining it**: UNC Honor Code says: the “deliberate or reckless representation of another’s words, thoughts, or ideas as one’s own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise.”

  “Taking credit for something you didn’t do.”
Why Should You Care???
Another Good Reason NOT to Plagiarize
Just this one time, I won’t get caught

Think Again!

- **June 25, 2008**: Madonna Constantine, professor at Columbia University’s Teachers College is fired. *(Source: CNN.com)*

- **February 2008**: Researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center discover that more than 70,000 article abstracts on Medline are disturbingly similar to other published work. *(Source: Chronicle of Higher Education)*

- **April 2006**: Ohio University revokes master’s degree of former mechanical engineering student accused of plagiarizing his thesis. *(Source: Chronicle of Higher Education)*
What is Protected: Copyright Laws

From Plagiarism.org:

“Copyright laws exist to protect our intellectual property. They make it illegal to reproduce someone else's expression of ideas or information without permission.”

The penalties: course failure, expulsion and depending on the circumstance, firings, potential fines and jail time.

Common Knowledge
What is Common Knowledge?

Did I know this information before I took this course?

Did this information/idea come from my own brain?
What is Protected?

- MUSIC
- WORDS
- IMAGES
- MOVIES/VIDEOS
- PHOTOS

Source: Plagiarism.org, The Owl at Perdue (online writing lab)
What Doesn’t Need Documentation?

Experiences

Artwork, photos, video and audio

Thoughts, insights, conclusions

Common Knowledge/Accepted Facts

Source: Plagiarism.org, The OWL at Purdue (online writing lab)
What Doesn’t Need Documentation

Historical Events

Original research

Folklore, Myths

Source: Plagiarism.org, The OWL at Purdue (online writing lab)
What Does Plagiarism Look Like?
Types of Plagiarism: Sources Not Cited

- The Ghost Writer
- The Photocopy
- The Potluck Paper
- The Poor Disguise
- The Labor of Laziness
- The Self-Stealer

Source: Plagairism.org/iParadigms, LLC; The OWL at Purdue (online writing lab)
Sources Cited - But Still Plagiarized

- The Forgotten Footnote
- The Misinformer
- The Too-Perfect Paraphrase
- The Resourceful Citer
- The Perfect Crime

Source: Plagairism.org/iParadigms LLC
Preventing Plagiarism: A Checklist

Plan your paper/Outline

Take Good Notes/Record Bibliographic Info

Talk to your instructor

Source: Plagiarism.org
Preventing Plagiarism: A Checklist

When in doubt: cite

Be clear who said what

KNOW HOW TO PARAPHRASE!!!!

Source: Plagiarism.org
One Great Way to Paraphrase

Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Reading Comprehension
Reading Comprehension Questions

What is the author trying to explain?

Why does s/he think these points are important?

How has s/he decided to construct the argument?

How does the structure of the argument affect the reader’s response to the author’s ideas?

How effective is the author’s argument?
A Lesson in Paraphrasing

Paraphrasing Sources


“Causes of Continuing High Levels of Child Poverty. There are three main reasons why child poverty has remained high. First, because of increases in divorce and the rate of out-of-wedlock births, a larger proportion of children live in single-parent families. The parent is usually the mother. Such families are much more likely to be poor than two-parent families because a single mother’s earning power tends to be low, the absent fathers often fail to contribute child support and the public assistance benefits are low. This demographic shift has helped increase poverty among children. Second, during the past 20 years, an increasing proportion of heads of families have been unable to earn enough income to keep their dependents out of poverty. This is partly because the distribution of earnings has become more unequal. Third, real government income support benefits for children declined from the early 1970s to the early 1980s (Committee on Ways and Means, 1985, p. 182) and have not recovered in recent years. We will return to income support policy issues later.”

Acceptable or Unacceptable?

There are several reasons why poverty among children is high: increases in divorce and out-of-wedlock births; more heads of families have been unable to earn enough income in the past 20 years; and from the early 1970s to the early 1980s government support benefits for children have decreased.

Acceptable or Unacceptable?

There are several reasons for child poverty: divorce, out-of-wedlock births, low single mother’s earning power, low incomes and decrease in government supports for children since the early 1980s. In addition, average real income hasn’t grown much in recent years and also income distribution has become less equal (Plotnick, 1992).

Right or Wrong?

Researchers who study income support policies point to several reasons why child poverty in particular has remained high in recent years. Plotnick (1992) suggests three main reasons: increases in divorce rates and out-of-wedlock births which mean more single parents (usually women) with lower earning power; lower wages; and a decrease in government support benefits for children. To emphasize the latter, Plotnick points out that “…real government income support benefits for children declined from the early 1970s to the early 1980s (Committee on Ways and Means, 1985, p. 182) and have not recovered in recent years” (p. 64).

Right or Wrong?

The discussion about child poverty often revolves around whether policy makers believe that it is caused by governmental policies or by the parents of guardians of the children. It is difficult to separate the causes. For example, Plotnick (1992) cites reasons for high child poverty rates that could be blamed on either or both individuals or governmental policies: more divorces and out-of-wedlock births which lead to lower incomes (single parents are usually women with low incomes); a low rate of increase in average earning power; and declining governmental benefits for children. Plotnick further comments that “absent fathers often fail to contribute child support,” but also that “public assistance benefits are low” (p. 64).

A Plagiarism Test
Evaluating Web Sources

Source: Retrieved from U.C. Berkeley: Teaching Library Internet Workshops (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html)
#1 unreliable Web site
What to look for?

Is it a personal page?
Look for tilde (~) or %

Domain?
.gov
.mil
.org

Publisher?
Look for server such as lib.unc.edu

Source: Retrieved from U.C. Berkeley: Teaching Library Internet Workshops (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html)
Important Pages

Source: Retrieved from U.C. Berkeley: Teaching Library Internet Workshops (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html)
Quality information?

Links to other resources

Documented sources

Reproduced information

Source: Retrieved from U.C. Berkeley: Teaching Library Internet Workshops (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html)
Finding reliable Web sites

Alexa.com

Librarians’ Index (lii.org), Infomine, About.com

Google, Yahoo, etc.

Source: Retrieved from U.C. Berkeley : Teaching Library Internet Workshops (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html)
Does it add up?

Source: Retrieved from U.C. Berkeley: Teaching Library Internet Workshops (http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html)
You Cite Your Source Even If:

- You put all direct quotes in quotation marks
- You changed the words used by the author into synonyms
- You completely paraphrased the ideas to which you referred
- Your sentence is mostly made up of your own thoughts, but contains reference to author’s ideas
- You mention the author’s name in the sentence.
Helpful sites on Plagiarism

UNC Writing Center
http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/plagiarism.html

Plagiarism.org
http://www.plagiarism.org/

Owl at Purdue
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/

Copyright issues www.copyright.gov/