

Teachers, Learn the

ABC's of Plagiarism!

DID YOU KNOW...

- **Plagiarism among students is on the rise**
- **More students see plagiarism as a way to escape academic pressure and get ahead**
- **The Internet provides easy access to thousands of "solutions" for students**



Today, many students struggle with the temptation to plagiarize and teachers are increasingly confronted with suspect student work. It's necessary for both students and teachers to educate themselves on this topic.

Plagiarism is broadly defined as taking credit for someone else's ideas. Types of plagiarism include:

- Downloading a free research paper or copying an Internet article
- Buying a paper or hiring someone to write a paper for you
- Cutting and pasting information without crediting a source
- Faking a citation

Preventing and Detecting Plagiarism

Here are some tips to help you prevent, reduce and spot plagiarism:

- **PREVENTION.** Discuss the different types of plagiarism with students. Use specific examples. Discuss the implications of cheating, as well as specific consequences.
- **PLANNING:** Help students by designing your assignment well. Robert Harris (*see resources below*) advises requiring students to use one or more sources written in the past year. He also suggests requiring a metalearning essay in which students describe their research experience.
- **AWARENESS.** Be cognizant of the resources students turn to. Check out www.schoolsucks.com, www.homeworksucks.com, www.freeessay.com, www.research-assistance.com.
- **DETECTION.** Know the signs—writing style doesn't match previous student work, advanced vocabulary and writing style, multiple voices or mixed citation style, out-of-date material.
- **UTILIZE RESOURCES.** If you suspect plagiarism, use a search engine or plagiarism site such as www.plagiarism.com, or www.canexus.com to confirm your suspicions.

Additional Resources:

To learn more about strategies presented above, check out these websites:

[Plagiarism: What It is and How to Recognize and Avoid It](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)
<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

[Anti-Plagiarism Strategies for Research Papers, by Robert Harris](http://www.virtualsalt.com/antiplag.htm)

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