

PLAGIARISM

“Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” from the Carleton University Undergraduate calendar.

Plagiarism can take on various forms, it can include submitting original work from a previous class without the professor’s approval, submitting other people’s work in part or full, using other people’s research data or findings, or simply not citing resources properly.

FAQ’s

Q: Why do students plagiarize?

A: Procrastination and Poor Time Management

Students often are juggling material and homework from 5 different courses simultaneously. At peak times during the year, the stress of having many approaching deadlines can cause them look for shortcuts in their work. This can include copying other students’ assignments or not/incorrectly citing their essays.

A: Unable to Cite Properly

Students come to university with different abilities and skill sets; often possessing incomplete or incorrect knowledge of how to cite resources and effectively organize their sources during research. This can lead to them using incorrect citing practices or the wrong format, causing unintentional plagiarism.

Q: How can I prevent plagiarism?

A: Spend time discussing academic standards

The best ways to ensure that students know what plagiarism is and what is acceptable in your class is to clearly define what you expect from them at the beginning of the semester. Telling them that resubmitting previous academic work is unacceptable or defining what an allowable level of peer collaboration is can reduce the risk plagiarism.

A: Teach students how to not plagiarize

Students may understand they should not plagiarize, however understanding how to correctly write a research paper so as to avoid it may be less obvious. It is useful to give a short lecture or a comprehensive handout on how to research and write a paper with correct citation and without plagiarizing.

The library can help faculty members with this library.carleton.ca/instruction/facultyinfo.html

A: Be aware of your students

Students need to feel that your class is manageable. Try to make sure students feel they can succeed in your class without dishonesty. Tell students that they can talk to you if they are having difficulties and to come see you during office hours to discuss them.

Also try to recognize signs of stress in students and remind them that there are on campus services to help them if they are having problems, such as the **Student Academic Success Center**, the **Library**, and **Health and Counseling Services**.

A: Create assignments that prevent plagiarism

By creating assignments that have specific topics that require new thought or research, the risk of students merely copying or paraphrasing a generic essay can be reduced. This can mean creating an abstract for the assignment and as well as compiling resources for the students to use, which the library can help with library.carleton.ca/help/askus.html. It can also be useful to require students to submit a first draft or drafts along with the final version of the paper. This will ensure that students will not leave their assignment to the last minute, which will reduce the tendency for them to plagiarize.

Q: How can I detect plagiarism?

A: If you suspect plagiarism in an assignment, there are a few different tools you can use to investigate. When conducting your search, you should let two things lead you:

1. The suspected sections of text in the paper.
2. The general topic of the paper.

This allows you to find directly copied sections of text as well as areas that have been paraphrased. A simple search engine, such as Google, can be a valuable tool for detecting plagiarism.

EXAMPLE OF HOW TO SEARCH FOR PLAGIARISM

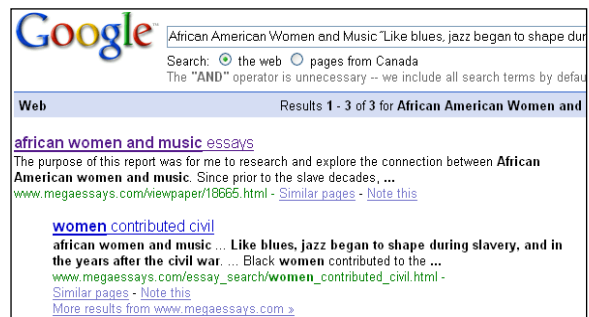
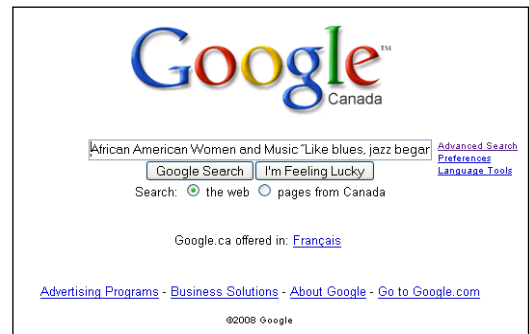
If you came across a suspicious sentence (shown below) in an essay on African American Women and Music and would like to check it for plagiarism, follow the steps below.

“Like blues, jazz began to shape during slavery, and in the years after the civil war. The end of slavery meant the end of an isolation period that prevented blacks from sharing ideas and art forms such as music.”

1. Enter some of the suspected text in quotations as well as the topic of the essay. For the example above entering the following would be affective:

African American Women and Music “Like blues, jazz began to shape during slavery, and in the years after the civil war”

2. The search engine will give you a list of matches corresponding to the sentence you have entered. You can then look though the links to see if there are any that are similar. You will have to use your best judgment to determine if a sentence or idea has been lifted without citation or if it is merely a similar sentence.



If you would like more control over you search you can try the Advanced Search, which allows you to more specifically, search the web. It is located beside the simple search field.

Q: What do I do if I find plagiarism?

A: If you believe you have found plagiarism and would like to act on the matter, please contact your Associate Dean. If you're unsuccessful, then contact the office of the Dean.

Q: Where can I search for plagiarism?

A: The easiest and most effective way to search for plagiarism is to enter your query into a simple search engine. Since that is where most articles would have been found in the first place, they are most likely going to come up in your search as well. There are many search engines and resources you can use, each will yield fairly similar results. Below is a list of some of the most popular:

SEARCH ENGINES

- Google google.ca
- Google Books Search books.google.ca
- Google Scholar scholar.google.com

OTHER RESOURCES

Student Affairs – Academic Integrity
Carleton University's Writing Tutorial Service
Carleton Library - Citing Sources

carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity
carleton.ca/wts
library.carleton.ca/howdoin/citing.html

University of Toronto – Using Sources
Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)
Acadia University – Online tutorial
Plagiarism.org
Webliography with annotated entries

writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources
owl.english.purdue.edu/owl
library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism
plagiarism.org
web-miner.com/plagiarism