



Plagiarism in the Online Environment

Jennifer Cox
Public Services Librarian
UNLV Lied Library



Why Students Plagiarize

- ✖ Don't understand the issues/techniques involved in correctly citing material.
- ✖ Overwhelmed by the assignment, need more help than you can give them in class.
- ✖ Haven't managed their time well, waited until the last minute, or trying to save time.
- ✖ Get satisfaction from "outwitting" you, or just because it's so easy to do.



Prevention Strategies

- ✦ Include “understanding the value of doing original work” as a learning objective.
- ✦ Teach how and when to cite a source.
- ✦ Refer them to the UNLV’s Writing Center.
- ✦ Make assignments due on regular intervals based on the process.
- ✦ Make topics specific and unusual.



More Prevention Strategies

- ✦ Require specific resources or specific types of resources to be used.
- ✦ Require students to reflect in writing or in an oral report on the process of writing this paper and/or on the paper topic.
- ✦ Show the students a paper mill site and critique one of the essays together in class.
- ✦ Schedule a library session.




How Students Plagiarize

- ✖ Paper Mills – Free Papers
- ✖ Paper Mills – Papers for a Fee
- ✖ Electronic Library Resources
- ✖ Other Web Resources



Detecting Plagiarism

- ✖ "Voice" does not match student's other work or abilities.
- ✖ "Voice" changes in sections of the paper.
- ✖ Student cannot discuss the topic or issue with you in an intelligent manner.
- ✖ All the citations are old, or there are no citations.
- ✖ Different topic than what was assigned.



Identifying the Source of Plagiarized Papers

- ✦ Internet search engines
- ✦ Commercial services
- ✦ The Library's online periodical indexes



How Library Staff Can Help

- ✦ We can help your students learn to find and evaluate information resources.
- ✦ We can help you identify the source(s) of a plagiarized paper.