



Plagiarism: Strategies for Educators

1. Keep up

Browse these examples of cheat sites to see what's available to students:

- Free Essays www.freeessay.com
- Free Essays123 www.freeessays123.com/
- School Sucks: www.schoolsucks.com/
- Cyber Essays www.cyberessays.com
- Planet Papers www.planetpapers.com
- Big Nerds www.bignerds.com
- ACI Writing Assistance www.aci-plus.com/
- Evil House of Cheat: www.cheathouse.com/
- Academic Term Papers www.academietermpapers.com/
- PaperSure www.papershack.com/
- Research Assistance www.research-assistance.com
- Research Papers Online www.ezwrite.com/
- Termpapers On File www.termpapers-on-file.com/
- Cheat Factory cheatfactory.hypermart.net/

Take a look at these solutions for teachers and organizations:

- Ithenticate www.ithenticate.com
- WCopyFind <http://plagiarism.phys.virginia.edu/Wsoftware.html>
- CatchItFirst <http://www.catchitfirst.com/>
- Eve Plagiarism System www.canexus.com
- MyDropBox www.mydropbox.com
- Plagiarism.org www.plagiarism.org
- Turnitin www.turnitin.co

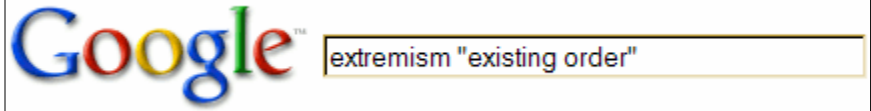
2. Know the rules

Be aware of policies and procedures that relate to your institution

- UW-L Office of Student Life <http://www.uwlax.edu/StudentLife/>
- UW System Ch 14 <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/uws/uws014.pdf>
- UW Madison policies <http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html>

3. Become a detective

- Don't spend too much time on this. **Remember it is NOT your job to prove plagiarism.** You have the right to question and to involve campus authorities even without proof.
- Search the web using phrases from suspicious papers. Use quotation marks to make phrases and plus signs for "and." Here's an example of a search for a paper on **Extremism** with the phrase **existing order** in the first paragraph.



- Be aware of web-based full-text library resources where students can find entire articles online. Run a quick search of keywords or phrases in some of these databases. A good place to start for Wisconsin residents is **BadgerLink**, a collection of information databases available to all state residents. Also check your school's library resources.



4. The best tactic: use classroom prevention techniques

Some of these have worked for others...will they work for you?

- Have clear plagiarism policies.
- Make sure students understand what is and what is not considered plagiarism.
- Have students sign contracts reflecting their understanding of plagiarism and your rules.
- Let students know that you are aware and that you will search plagiarism sites.
- Have enough written assignments that you can be familiar with students' writing styles.
- Require students to hand in hard copy of all materials used if requested.
- Give very focused assignments.
- Require significant personal viewpoint in written assignments.
- Have students work in groups.
- Require an annotated bibliography.
- Monitor work from outline to completion.
- Require rough drafts and prewriting with deadlines.
- Require a research journal.
- State that you might request revisions.
- Require oral presentations with minimal notes.

Plagiarism Tip-Offs

- The paper exceeds the quality of previous work.
- The footnotes and text do not match up.
- The topic is only marginally related.
- Passages seem familiar.
- Passages are inappropriately placed.
- Passages are inappropriately cut off.
- Different sections of the paper seem to have different writing styles.
- Different sections of the paper are formatted differently.