

# Helping Students Avoid Plagiarism



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# Introductions

PLEASE TELL US

- Teachers, TA'S, Other?
- English vs. other disciplines?
- Freshman, sophomore, upperclassman?



# Definitions & Misconceptions

- Unauthorized use of words or ideas
- NOT TRUE
- Excludes images, music, inventions, etc
- Internet sources with no author shown don't have to be cited.
- “Common knowledge” doesn't need citing
- Plagiarism has to be intentional
  - “**sloppy scholarship**” vs. taking a shortcut

# Avoiding Plagiarism



Plagiarism is...

...using someone else's words or ideas as though they were your

...intentional or unintentional "borrowing" from another person's work.

...paying someone to write a paper.

...a serious offense.

# Teachers' Writing Expectations

- How do your students know you're serious about plagiarism and grades
- Why else should the students care?
  - Plagiarism is a form of **stealing**
  - Plagiarism is **not** a victimless crime

# Why should I Cite Sources



Credit where  
credit is due

Assists other  
researchers  
interested in your  
work

Demonstrates the amount of  
work you've done

Strengthens your work by supporting it!

# Teachers' Writing Expectations

- How much grading do you expect to do?
- Do you expect to teach writing too?
- Does you expect their writing to be perfect?
- Where can you get help (or send your students for help) to avoid plagiarism?

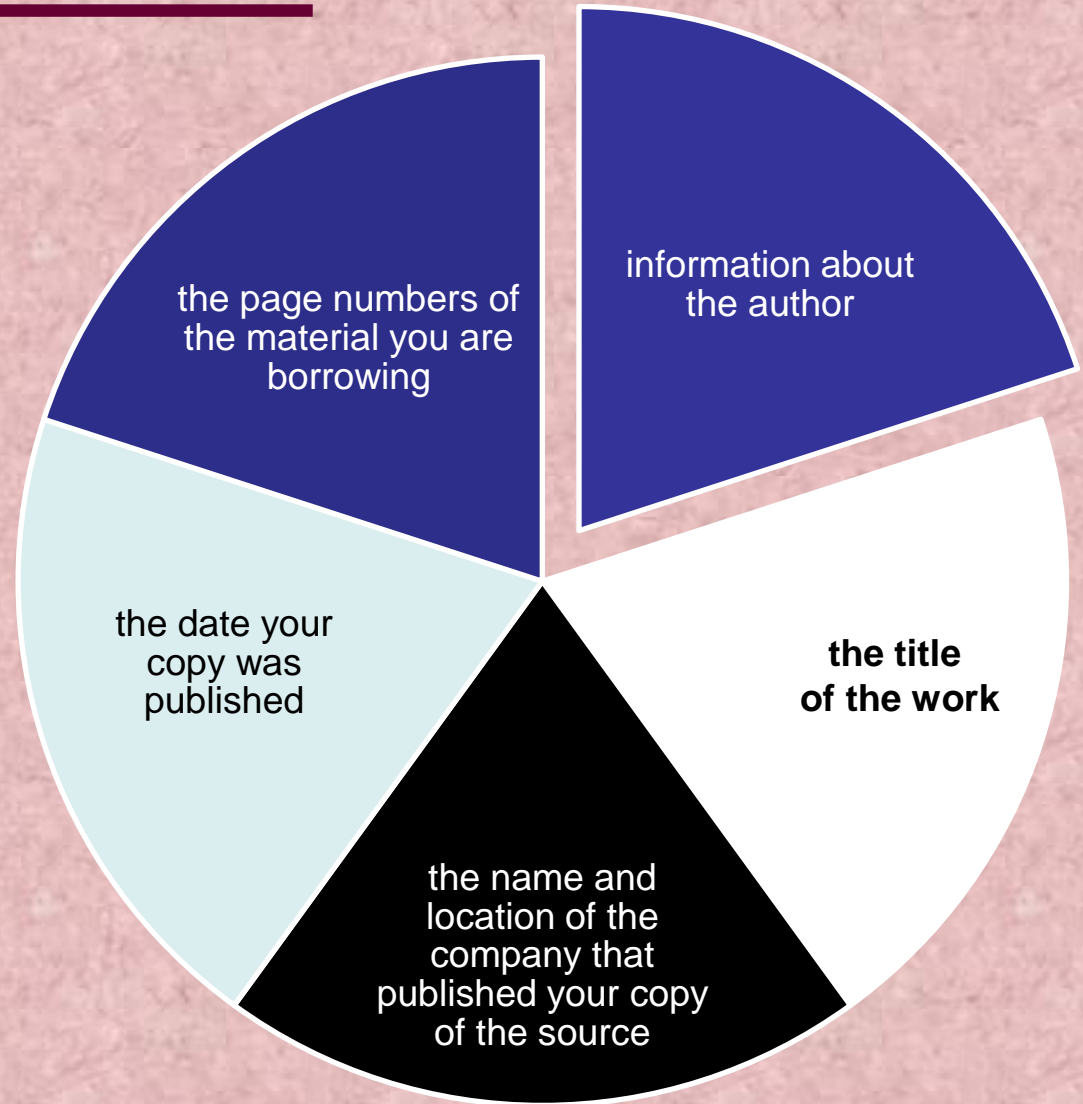


# Teaching Good Writing Skills

- Meyer Library website for plagiarism  
<http://guides.library.missouristate.edu/content.php?pid=16689&sid=343754>
- The Writing Center's Resource page which includes a ppt presentation on plagiarism as well as a link to the library's plagiarism expert guide  
<http://writingcenter.missouristate.edu/24690.htm>
- An interesting example of a well-explained plagiarism policy by Rebecca Moore Howard and comparing it to the policy at Syracuse University  
<http://wrt-howard.syr.edu/Syllabi/PlagPolicy.html>.

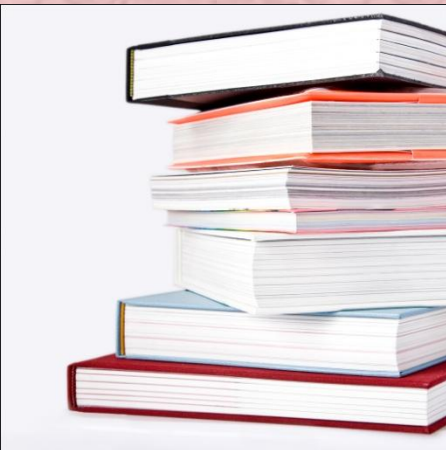


# What's a Citation?



# Giving Assignments

- Multiple phases of one assignment
  - Reference list, rough draft, final draft
- Assignments that ask for opinion, not just fact
- Changing assignments each year
- Learn the writing styles of your students



# Punishing Offenders

- What sanctions are allowed by our policy?
- What sanctions are appropriate?
  - “Teachable moments”
- Report all incidents to the AIC, regardless of sanction
- Why is it important to punish plagiarism?
  - If it goes unpunished, the word spreads
  - If it gets punished, the word spreads faster!

# Using Turnitin.com

- How many of you use Turnitin.com?
- How many use Blackboard?
- An assignment can be given via either:
  - Setting up a “class” in Turnitin.com
  - Assigning a paper through Blackboard

# Questions???



"Dear Mr. Trent: Since you only pretended to write this paper, I only pretended to grade it!"



"Plagiarism?" But my roommate gave me permission to use his paper and said I didn't have to cite him."