**Academic Honesty:**

*The Legal and Ethical Use of Information*

**So what’s the problem?**

* Widespread phenomenon
* On the increase
* Academic dishonesty is an **ethical** issue
* Academic dishonesty is a **legal** issue

**Copyright…that’s just books, right?**

* Copyright respects the **authors** or **producers** ethical and legal ownership of their work
* Ownership of **intellectual property** includes books, articles, music, movies, artwork, photographs and the Internet
* You must acknowledge copyrighted information when you write a **research paper, create a poster, post a website** or do a **presentation**

**Academic Dishonesty/ Plagiarism…it’s like...**

**“lip-synching to someone else’s voice and accepting the applause and rewards for yourself”**

Owl Online Writing Lab. “Writing a Research Paper.” Purdue University. 2002

**What counts as plagiarism/ academic dishonesty?**

* using an **essay from another course/ source**
* copying **a friend’s homework or project**
* using another person’s **ideas as your own**
* copying and pasting from an **electronic encyclopedia, online database**, or **the internet** …
* buying **a paper from the Internet or another source**
* finding an essay in a **foreign language** and then using a program to **translate it**
* faking **a citation**
* direct **quoting** of a source without **citation**
* **paraphrasing but not citing the source**

**Why do students plagiarize? They tell us….**

* **I didn’t know I was plagiarizing**
* I don’t really understand the concepts of academic honesty and plagiarism
* **I didn’t think I could do a good job on my own**
* I’m not confident that my research and writing skills are as developed as they should be
* **I didn’t have time**
* I have a heavy workload at school, a part-time job, responsibilities at home
* **I was under a lot of pressure**
* School is very competitive and I need top marks to get into college or university
* **I thought I could get away with it**
* Lots of other students do

**Caught!**

* Teachers know how it is done
* Teachers know you and your writing style
* Teachers are content experts and read widely
* Teachers, teacher-librarians and administrators work as a team to trace questionable information
* High-tech programs are available to detect plagiarism

**Busted!**

Consequences might be…

* **a zero**
* **dismissal from a course**
* **suspension or expulsion**
* **legal proceedings**

**Who gets hurt?**

* The **creator of the work**
* **students**
* **parents**
* **teachers**
* **society**

**Please remember...**

* The goal of every teacher is to ensure that you develop the **skills and attitudes** that will make academic dishonesty a non-issue
* Teachers mark **“process”.** They want to see a progression from the initial selection of a topic, the gathering of resources, the synthesis of information, and the transfer of learning.

**Academic Honesty: Give credit where credit’s due…**

* Acknowledge your sources of ideas and information when you write a research paper, create a poster, post a web site or do a presentation

**Using information in a legal and ethical way**

* Don’t look for “short cuts”.
* Give yourself time
* Be confident in the value of your own ideas
* Be yourself in your writing
* Develop strong research and literacy skills
* Ask for assistance

**What research and writing skills are needed?**

* Asking key questions
* Note-taking
* Organizing
* Paraphrasing
* Revising and editing
* Citing sources

**Help is there for the asking:**

* Teachers and teacher-librarians
* School research and essay writing guides
  + - Student Research Guides
    - Your school’s research guides in the library
* Books
  + Large variety of books on writing essays.
* The Internet
* The University of Toronto Writing Centre
  + - www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html
* OOWL at Purdue University: Avoiding Plagiarism

owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/REsearchW/plag.html