CQ Researcher is a good place to begin research on a topic of current interest and will provide a good overview of that topic in a 20-40 page report.

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You can perform a quick search here with just a keyword or two.

Perform a more Advanced Search here.

This allows you to specify a date range and/or narrow your search with other options.

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Plagiarism and Cheating

Are they becoming more acceptable in the internet age?

By Sarah Giaza

Introduction

Cheating scandals among some of the nation’s best students at Harvard University and New York City’s Stuyvesant High School have highlighted a problem experts say is widespread. In surveys, a majority of college and high school students admit to cheating on a test or written assignment. Some experts blame the cheating on the prevalence of cheating in high school. Others blame the use of ad and entertainment to emphasize new rules of sharing and managing creative material in digital media. Researchers find that cheating increases when education focuses on the test instead of emphasizing learning. But experts question whether shifting to learning for learning’s sake is realistic when public school funding now depends on standardized test results and families think their children’s future depends on high grades.

Overview

A Harvard student Athan P. Vlachos was accused of plagiarism in his novel How Was My Life? While it was unfolding, and after the copying had been published!

Pro/Con

Is there a change definition of plagiarism needed?

Pro

Susan D. Brown
Professor of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Written for CQ Researcher, January 2010

Plagiarism is a perfectly fine term with a perfectly clear definition: use of someone else’s words or ideas without giving credit. But words change, and dictionaries provide only partial evidence of change. In this case, the term plagiarism today covers almost every form of academic misconduct—from improper citation of contributing members of academic citation conventions to buying term papers. Plagiarism is used for what is (usually) unintended, for what is (usually) voluntary, for what is (usually) honest. However, the single term is less helpful than confusing because too many words carry connotations of dishonesty or ineptitude, given the nature of plagiarism.

Con

Terence Fishman
Chairman, International Center for Academic Integrity, Oberlin College, Written for CQ Researcher, January 2010

Clearly, the processor of information-gathering tools have changed. We no longer provide access to the easily obtained information via electronic means. Many writers don’t provide acknowledgments. But does that mean we need a new definition of plagiarism?

Although it’s difficult to reach a consensus on the precise wording and boundaries of plagiarism, most teachers, students and experts agree on the basics. Plagiarism is taking work that is not one’s own, giving credit to the source of the work and not taking the work. The commonly used definition of plagiarism includes work without giving credit, misappropriation and verification.