

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will never be eliminated completely, but course and assessment design alongside educating students as to what plagiarism is, can go a long way towards reducing it.

Some simple ways to avoid plagiarism:

- Ensure students are clear as to what constitutes plagiarism;
- Use different questions each year;
- Explain how to reference other people's work; and
- Collect drafts or plans of work (these don't have to be marked) before the submission date, so students don't panic copy at the last moment.

Questions that ask students to detail a concept could easily be copied from the Internet or books. More creative questions are less likely to already exist. For example 'state the arguments for and against genetic engineering' could easily be copied. If however, you give students four texts on genetic engineering and ask them to compare and contrast the views expressed in these, the likelihood of thinking and learning increases.

Further information

Preventing and Designing out Plagiarism (2008). Short guide produced by the UK Centre for Bioscience. www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/resources/shortguides/plagiarism.pdf

Plagiarism Advice provides generic advice and guidance on all aspects of plagiarism prevention and detection to institutions, academics and students. www.plagiarismadvice.org

Badge, J. L., Cann, A. J. and Scott, J. (2007) **To cheat or not to cheat? A trial of the JISC plagiarism detection service with biological sciences students.** *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, 32(4), 1-7

Carroll, J. (2007) **A Handbook for Deterring Plagiarism in Higher Education** (2nd ed). OCSLD, UK.

Dawson, M. M. and Overfield, J. A. (2006) **Plagiarism: Do Students Know What It Is?** *Bioscience Education*, volume 8. www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/journal/vol8/beej-8-1.aspx

Tierney, A. (2006) **Tackling Plagiarism in the Level One Biology Class.** *Practice and Evidence of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and Higher Education*. 1:13-21

Willmott, C. J. R. and Harrison, T. M. (2003) **An exercise to teach bioscience students about plagiarism.** *Journal of Biological Education*. 37, 139-140

Resources for your students

University of Leicester's **online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism.** www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ssds/slc/resources/writing/plagiarism/plagiarism-tutorial/

Using Sources, from Ofqual, gives guidance on finding, evaluating, using and referencing sources. www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2009-12-24-plagiarism-students.pdf

