

My coursework submission: a statement on plagiarism

By Alastair Beresford

Plagiarism is the “wrongful appropriation” and “stealing and publication” of another author's “language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions” and the representation of them as one's own original work.

Plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty and a breach of journalistic ethics. It is subject to sanctions such as penalties, suspension, expulsion from school or work and even substantial fines. Recent cases have been seen in academia. The modern concept of plagiarism as immoral and originality as an ideal emerged in Europe in the 1700s. The idea has since flourished: we no longer accept plagiarism in academic work today.

For decades many computing departments have deployed systems for the detection of plagiarised student source code submissions. Automated systems to detect free-text student plagiarism are just becoming available and the experience of computing educators is valuable for their successful deployment.

In general, plagiarism can be defined as the unacknowledged use of the work of others as though this were your own original work. In the context of examinations or other assessed course components (this includes, but is not limited to: written tests, written papers, ticked exercises, take-home tests, written assignments, practical assignments, project reports, dissertations and essays) this amounts to passing off the work of others as your own to gain unfair advantage. **The Golden Rule: The Examiners must be left in no doubt as to which parts of any submission are your own original work and which are not.**

All students should be aware that any work submitted for assessment purposes may be submitted to Turnitin UK software for screening.

Addendum

The above text, without the inclusion of this addendum, would represent an example of plagiarism. It copies text from the following sources:

- The first two paragraphs are taken from Wikipedia; the second paragraph was lightly edited. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism>)
- The third paragraph is taken from an academic article: Thomas Lancaster and Fintan Culwin. *Towards an error free plagiarism detection process*. In Proceedings of the 6th Annual Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education (ITiCSE), pp57–60, 2001. ACM Press. (<https://doi.org/10.1145/377435.377473>)
- The fourth paragraph is taken from our own teaching pages. (<https://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/teaching/exams/plagiarism.html>)
- The final sentence is taken from the University page on plagiarism. (<https://www.plagiarism.admin.cam.ac.uk/>)

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