Plagiarism in the Digital Age


Rethinking Plagiarism in the Digital Age was written by two authors, Lea Evering and Gary Moorman. The piece is a scholarly article discussing the plagiarism in the higher education community; its different definitions, why students do it, and the ways in which to prevent it. They support their thesis by discussing how the internet affects the accessibility to plagiarize as well as forms into which to prevent it. They both really want to discuss and share how big of a problem plagiarism has become with all our digital advancements. Both authors really focused on college/university students because the solutions they offered were really centered on professors, at a higher education level, to really get specific with their students in how they want citations done.

The article was written in the year 2012, which coincided with the article as a whole. As years progress so does all the technology around us. The article stated, “Although no empirical research has established a direct link between plagiarism and the Internet (Carter, 2008), several studies name easy access to online material as a catalyst for plagiarism…” The article was written at a peak in the digital age, as students could/can easily turn to any search engine and have a numerous amounts of information at our fingertips. The evidence both Evering and Moorman used in their article is very reliable. They used a variety of research journals conducted by school educators. Not only that, but many of the cited references were referenced, so it was easy to locate them and identify whether or not they are reliable.

After having read the whole article and found all information to be logical, believable, and relatable; plagiarism was put into a different context. All of the author’s claims and main thesis were concluded very logically. The separation of the article into sub-areas, made it easier to read along. However, there can be a contradiction in my last sentence; there was some confusion in one of the examples they used about the student essay. That really should not have been included, because they had already provided many tactics into identifying plagiarism and ways into not doing it. The logic behind the essay example was just not logical8, I understand it would be visually helpful but it is something we can easily infer from all the information already provided.


Plagiarism Lines Blur for Students in Digital Age was written by author Trip Gabriel in 2010. In this article he discusses the many lines or borders plagiarism may put up for students.
Along with that he discusses the reasons why so many students actually partake in plagiarism and the efforts which educators take into stopping and preventing it. That is also his main purpose within the text, to evaluate and discuss the examples he provides for his argument. It is an article on the New York times which I feel has a very scholarly audience; as in people whom graduated from college, are currently in school both below and in in college and obviously all educators. Gabriel does maintain an unbiased view throughout the whole article, so he is reporting to his audience and in no way has some sort of bias with his audience.

This article was written by Trip Gabriel and was published on the New York Times online newspaper. The New York Times is always a trustworthy source to utilize because their information seems to be verified and their sources are all relevant and credible. Authors always cite the places in which they got all their information, so if I am a little worry of where it came from I can just track it down. Trip Gabriel is a well-known journalist for the NY times whom proves himself to be a credible author as he has written multiple articles for the newspaper. Throughout the article he maintained an unbiased view, he was just reporting his information to his audience. I mainly believe it was because plagiarism is black or white, and it is a growing problem among students across grade levels that it’s a topic that really needs reporting.

Gabriel really used a variety of other authors’ quoted words in order to give a more in depth analysis of the issue. He uses a variety of quotes from scholars and practicing teachers as well as examples from a variety of universities’ plagiarism cases. As I mentioned earlier he did maintain an unbiased stand so really never stated that he agreed with any of his examples. He sort of connected all of them in order to show the growing problem that plagiarism is and the methods in which to prevent and stop it.

**Kelly, Tara. “College Plagiarism Reaches All Time High: Pew Study” The Huffington Post September 01, 2011.**

The research article, College Plagiarism Reaches All Time High: Pew Study, written by Tara Kelly; displays and discusses a study conducted by the Pew Research Center. In it she focuses on cyber-plagiarism, which is dealing with online classes and the way in which college students grasp information in that way. Along with that she discusses the impacts which the internet and computers have had on students and the following effects of plagiarism. Kelly is writing this article in order to further inform teachers, showing evidence, about the growing problem plagiarism is.

When first looking at the date in which this article was written, one can infer it has been a couple of years since it was first published. The article was written and published in the year of 2011, knowing that it is also a study that was conducted which affects the article as a whole. Statistics change and the information may stop being relevant. There is truth in the research Kelly presented in her article, however looking at it today (2014) it may seem outdated. The research she has provided is relevant and may be used to further research on the topic, but since approximately four years have passed the information may be outdated but still useful as a reference. As mentioned above, Tara Kelly used a Pew poll which has been used by a variety of different people in order to find a variety of information. In her article she writes, “A majority of college presidents (55%) said that plagiarism in students’ papers has increased over the past ten years.” This and all other information has a link to the Pew study, so one can view the actual results. By providing straight links to not only the Pew Research Center website but also her other sources she had a credible amount of information.
Tara Kelly was really aiming to display the effects the internet has on students plagiarizing. She was really aiming to portray the percent of students whom started to plagiarize after the internet was in full swing. She mentions online learning a lot in her essay, one can then assume that she is really aiming to show the expansion of and effects of online learning. Her online learning hidden point slowly became clearer as she got more into her article. Towards the end she discusses the percentages of online classes being used and the number of students whom are currently using online classes, and the percentages of students who find online classes useful and those who do not.


In this article by Meredith G. Lawrence written in the fall of 2011 she discusses the many copyrighted issues that have arisen among people sharing their recipe ideas online. The idea of people copying and using others’ recipes as their own is plagiarism, Lawrence goes in further of this problem. She not only discusses the main copyright ordeal but also discusses the numerous sources which are contributing to the enforcement of copyright laws. She also examines how well it is individuals interpret or understand copyright laws and policies. Her intended audience is very clear to be people who upload recipes to their online blogs or any other internet site; as the article as a whole discusses recipes particularly.

Within her article Meredith Lawrence uses a number of sources to further her claim. She mentions a variety of “copyright licensing companies (Lawrence)” to be able to back it up with credible sources. She mentions the American Society of Composers, Artists and Publishers which is a nationwide known association. Along with that while the main topic, recipes, she focused on throughout the article may appear to be irrelevant she did focus on the internet and copyrighting. She discussed the uploading of recipes and naming them as your own as the problem, and that is something students have been doing. While they are not uploading recipes whom are not theirs, they are copying and pasting other people’s words and using them as their own; so in turn it is the exact same thing.

The article did focus on the technicalities of copyrighting but it really should have touched more upon the actual effects of it on individuals. The example of recipes did help in understanding the copyright issues but it did fail to show the ways in which people really interpret it as. While the title does infer it is a recipe to correctly copyright in the digital age, it also focuses on those technicalities. The information that may have been left out that would have been essential is the main idea of how copyrighting when not properly done is plagiarism. After having read the article I did infer to connect it to plagiarism, however it would have helped to further analyze the text if it would have been mentioned early on in the article.


In the short article written by an anonymous author on the Huffington Post titled, More Students Misunderstand the Fundamentals of Plagiarism which was written in the year 2011. In it the author writes about how the problem with plagiarism is the fact that many college students do not realize they are doing it. The intended audience for this particular article is all attending college students, but also the instructors at universities or other higher education facilities. The
author used a variety of real life examples and mentioned some professors who teach at well-known universities, in order to further their claim.

In the article the author uses real life examples to further their claim. First example the author used, was the one of Adam Wheeler, the student whom plagiarized his entire Harvard application in order to get accepted into the school. Second example, is the one of Helena Hegemann a best-selling author from Germany literally copied every passage in her book. While the article was written in 2011, the examples the author provided is still relevant as they are now examples of how bad of a problem plagiarism really is within this scholarly generation. While the date may be outdated, the examples are still relevant and will continue to be a source to look back on.

This article can be closely related to many other articles of the same topic, plagiarism. While the examples the author presented were very logical, the way in which the article was concluded did not. The author concluded the article with a question to their audience, which did not make final connections with the article as a whole. Yes, both of the individuals referenced deserved a punishment however the article was centered more on how serious of a problem really is because of how serious it has been done. The concluding questions were illogical to the article as a whole, the article had a different centered theme around plagiarism; and the questions were just very unnecessary.


Unconscious Plagiarism by Rachel Toor is an advice article published online in a newspaper website. The author argues that students unconsciously plagiarize. She emphasizes that her students tend to regurgitate the same ideas and concepts that was just introduced by her. Or as in a more personal case, the author mentions a colleague that had used and reciprocated her own writing style. Toor wants to make a clear statement that writing is a trade that is very much plagiarized. She emphasizes that particularly student’s plagiarize without a notice of their actions.

The relevance is very so justified with the topic of plagiarism in the digital age. The amount of resources and literature available to us seems to correlate into one. Many students use their professor’s guidance in understanding or learning without realizing they are plagiarizing. Research and thesis are commonly plagiarized and reused without second guess in this digital age with so many students willing to receive an above average grade. The author’s credibility of the subject is acceptable. She studied at Yale University and has been an editor of dozens of scholarly books. She is currently an assistant professor of creative writing at eastern Washington’s University. Her opinion on this matter to be creditable and intriguing.

Toor’s claim is logical since I have personally seen student’s accidentally reciprocate the professor’s idea in a plagiarized manner. The logic is consistent and makes a persuasive argument. I do believe that perhaps she could have included statistics of plagiarism among students to emphasize the gravity of the situation. It would have been a good visual aid and it would reinforce the thesis of “unconscious plagiarism”.


In Challenges in Addressing Plagiarism in Education by Tracey Bretag, the article discusses academic integrity and plagiarism in a specific area of research which is health research. The
author supports her thesis by examining data that is compiled to understand plagiarism. A study found that 33% of the poll takers have done some sort of “questionable practice”. That author is writing at an elevated level since it is a magazine intended for medical researchers or other expertise in that field.

This essay is relevant due to its publication in 2013. The article may still be relevant in its findings about plagiarism with regard to students and research. A significant number of students, in general, have a tendency to be dishonest with certain aspects of research. The author is also reliable source because of publication. The fact that the essay appeared in a magazine intended for various medical experts is a very significant indicator.

Bretag’s could have used more graphs and polls to emphasize her point on plagiarism and the commonality of it. I think that would have been more effective than just writing down numbers and explaining the relationship between the study and her thesis. I find the visuals to be a good visual effect in these sorts of opinions and studies.


Academic Dishonesty Plagiarism Included, In the Digital Age: A Literature Review, by Ercegovac and Richardson Jr, addresses the issue of the grey in-between black and white questions of plagiarism. There are moments of speculation whether there is something is consider plagiarism or not especially in the digital era. The newest forms of technology come with rapid anticipation, but also cause a wave of problems considering plagiarism and students. The authors support their thesis by contacting databases such as ProQuest and investigating the amount of plagiarism occurs within their resources.

The article is credible due to its affiliation to the author. The authors are researchers and associate deans at University of California, Los Angeles. The evidence used is credible because they are well respected scholarly databases that acquire and receive from various researchers and professionals. ProQuest is a reliable source to work alongside with for research such as this. This article is done with partnerships that are very elevated in the knowledge of scholarly articles and plagiarism.

The author’s logic seems to be logical. I find the methods and strategies to the research to be applicable and the conclusions to be complete. The article is partnership with ProQuest makes sense and acquires the investigation to be legitimatized.


Turnitin Systems: A Deterrent to Plagiarism in College Classrooms, by Hobson and Heckler, argue that plagiarism is becoming an easier task. Plagiarism is becoming an increasingly popular task. The problem is the perception students have when copying and pasting is not one of a plagiarist. The authors enforce their opinion by incorporating a system that enforces honesty in essays and other assignments among college students.

The article was written in a research journal of technology. This journals are created for the purpose to keep specialist and professionals informed of topics that are relevant to their fields. The article was published in 2013 which is most likely to still pertain true. The authors have a university affiliation. This is a clear indicator of the credibility of the article. Not only
was it published in a scholarly journal, but as well has affiliation with Union University and University of Alabama.

The source is logical. The thesis is concise and concrete. The evidence and explanation of the argument about plagiarism and its commonality is logical. Turnitin.com is a valid source of information seeing that the University of California uses its system to ensure academic honesty. This logical conclusion of students and the density of the problem of academic dishonesty is accurate.


The author argues that because there is so much information available to us that our navigation of these researches is what matters. This skewed navigation leads young writers to choose a not so honest route of academic writing. The author is writing to others interested in writing and have found the desire to give into this “literary revolution” of plagiarism in the digital age.

The author is published in a respectable news site that report substantial amount of news. The author also is a professor at University of Pennsylvania. This is a good affiliation that can amount to credibility in the article’s favor. The date is recent and can be applicable to its relevancy.

The author confronts counterclaims in the article. The article addresses the opposite point of that plagiarism is awful. The author seems to be if not in favor of plagiarism, but at least tolerant of the subject. The opposing view in the article seems to be more appropriate in my view. I find the author’s claim to be controversial.


Since students have access to the Internet through computers and other digital devices some teachers see this as an advantage and want to integrate it in to teaching. But on the other hand some teachers believe that dealing with the plagiarism associated with it is too much to handle. One way to combat academic dishonesty according to the authors is to have discussions about academic dishonesty with students and teachers. And because of this the intended audience is students and teachers.

The National Council of Teachers of English wrote this article, so I would believe that this council would write an article that is beneficial to both students and teachers. And because of this this article is creditable, not to mention it has a lot of sources. Seeing that this article is aimed at teachers I believe that the bias is in favor of what teachers believe. Reading how teachers believe and see plagiarism is important to know because it gives you a better perspective on the topic, that is why this article is relevant to my topic.

One thing that I don't agree with is that it says that the main goal for students and teachers is to have shared ethical positions of plagiarism. When in reality students want an ethical position that puts their needs in favor and the teachers want an ethical position that is in their favor. Although ideally teachers want a shared ethical position it is just harder to come buy when students want another. So we as students are forced in to this shared ethical positions just to make it easier of the teacher’s lives.

Evering, Lea Calvert, and Gary Moorman. "Rethinking Plagiarism in the Digital Age."
Rethinking Plagiarism in the Digital Age talks about how there seems to be a disconnect on what plagiarism is and how it should be implemented. Plagiarism nowadays is based on ownership and who owns what and it is viewed that everything can be bought, owned and sold. One disconnect is that since there are so many ways to access information and multiple authors the lines of ownership can be blurred. Because of this I think that the intended audience is everyone. If people are aware of what people thing about plagiarism then they would be able to understand it better and hopefully find a way to combat it.

Being written in 2012 it is a recent article, which gives it more barring on relevancy. In addition it is a journal and journals are more creditable then magazines because they are intended for a target audience. Honestly I have never been good at determining biases unless they are right there in front of me. If I could guess it is aimed at educators because it tries to get students and teachers to understand how plagiarism plays a role in the digital age. This source is relevant because I am focusing on plagiarism in schools and it talks about how our idea of plagiarism is different because of the Internet. This article gives great back round on the subject and helps me understand the topic better.

One thing that I don't agree with is that the article states, “Today’s millennial generation is often criticized as undisciplined and under achieving.” I don't that it’s that our generation is under achieving I think it is that the generation before us holds us to higher standards and expects more out of us then what they would have expect for their generation. If less pressure was put on our generation on to do so well then we would not be perceived as underachieving.


This article is aimed at providing teachers specific ideas to deal with digital plagiarism in schools and analyzing why students cheat. To combat why students cheat teachers need to teach students what academic integrity is. One way in doing this is that teachers should create assignments that are interesting to the students. The theory behind this is that if students are interested in what they are learning about they are less likely to plagiarize when it comes to assignments.

Being written in the 2008 and having sources that range from the late 90s and early 2000’s this marks the dawn of the digital age. Ma, Wan, and Lu who wrote this article are creditable because their article was published by Ohio State and since Ohio State is a university they hold higher standards to the articles they publish. Not only this, but it indicates that the information in their paper is reliable. When I was reading the article a bias did not seem to be present but one could infer that the authors believe that the students are not to blame for plagiarizing rather that parents and teachers are to blame. Since plagiarism in the digital age is my topic this article is relevant not to mention I am focusing more on plagiarism in schools.

In my opinion the source is logical. It is well thought out and the claims that they are making make perfect since to me. Now this may be my bias here but I do believe that students are not to blame. Parents put pressure on us and getting in to college is getting harder and harder and since high school is just about getting good grades we as students can feel the need to cheat. But if teachers make the topic interesting then I believe we would be less inclined to cheat and actually want to learn and do the work.

This article looks at plagiarism and if it is out dated or not. It looks at this by saying that plagiarism started with the Internet and that since parents want us to succeed they can overlook their morals and just look at the fact that their children are doing well. The main reason why the author is writing this is because he wants to get one man’s opinion on the topic and see why he thinks plagiarism is happening. In doing so the intended audience is parents and educators. This article was written in 2012 by the Star ledger meaning that it is only two years old, so it is relevant on that account. By it being more resent the claims that are being made could be more accurate. Being written by the Star ledger I am not sure how accurate the article is, although it is question and answer and the interviewee Donald L. McCabe seems like a reliable source on the account that he has studied cheating for twenty years. Being a Q and A article there a biased based on what McCabe thinks. It is hard not to have a bias when you are being asked questions on what you think. In my opinion I think that his bias is that parents and the Internet is to blame for us cheating in schools.

There was a lot of good information but whenever you have a question and answer article you are always missing something. After all there are so many questions one could ask on a topic and you can’t just understand everything on a topic after only eleven questions. Although they are good questions it still leaves me hanging and wanting to know more about what McCabe thinks about the subject. I also think that he should have put more information in how he thinks we can combat plagiarism. By doing this it would make the article more interesting and we could get more out of it.


This article basically encompasses studies of student plagiarism over a forty year span in addition to the fact that it addresses strategies to combat plagiarism in the digital age. The first step to dealing with plagiarism according to this article is to see how students and teachers deal with it. The authors are writing this in hopes of giving people a perspective on what plagiarism is and how it affects us in hopes of finding a way to deal with it. This leads me to believe that this article is aimed at everyone who wants to know about studies done that have to do with plagiarism.

This article was written in 2003 meaning that the information in this article spans forty years in the past. Looking back forty years the Internet was not as accessible as it is today let alone students having a computer. When my mom was growing up getting to us a computer was a privilege that not many people get to use. This article gives you perspective on essentially 40 years in the past. I believe that this article is creditable because it was on a site called JSTOR, which is aimed at helping scholars, researchers and students.

This article says that implementing software that can detect plagiarism could introduce distrust among students and teachers. I do not believe this to be the case. Having software in this day in age that can detect plagiarism I don't feel that the teachers distrust me rather there is so much information out there it can be easy to plagiarize without knowing it and having this software makes us more aware of the situation. Which hopefully leads us to think when we are working and hopefully not plagiarize at all.