

# 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 web site 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**

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

- **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

# Why do students plagiarize?

## They tell us....

- **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 is 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**
  - On Your Own
  - TDSB Student Research Guide
- **Books**
  - Large variety of books on writing essays.
- **The Internet**
  - The University of Toronto Writing Centre  
[www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html](http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html)
  - OWL at Purdue University: Avoiding Plagiarism  
[owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/REsearchW/plag.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/REsearchW/plag.html)