

How much for that term paper?

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Audience: Teachers

Keywords: writing, plagiarism, plagiarised assignments, essays, preventing plagiarism, paper mill, citation machine, assessment

Description: Pupils are two clicks away from finding any research paper they might need in any number of subject areas—including Ethics! In this lesson, you will see how easy it is for anyone to find essays on the Internet, plus learn tips and techniques designed to help prevent plagiarism in your classroom.

Purpose: Depending on the structure of an assignment, pupils can easily purchase or find materials for free. The purpose of this lesson is to show teachers ways to prevent plagiarism in their classrooms and how to structure assignments that will deter pupils from plagiarising.

Objectives: At the end of this lesson learners will be able to:

- Explore various paper mill sites that offer pupil essays in their subject area
- Summarise various ways to address plagiarism in schools
- Construct research assignments that deter pupils from plagiarising

Essential resources: Ways to prevent plagiarism

Google: www.google.com

Essays on Hamlet: www.hamletessays.com

Essays on Hamlet Links: www.hamletessays.com/links.html

School Sucks: www.schoolsucks.com

Kimbel Library: <http://www.coastal.edu/library/pubs/mills2.html>

Is it plagiarism?: <http://mciunix.mciu.k12.pa.us/~spjvweb/isitplag.html>

Citation Machine: www.landmark-project.com/citation_machine/cm.php

Cyberbee Copyright: http://www.cyberbee.com/cb_copyright.swf

AltaVista: www.altavista.com

HotBot: www.hotbot.com

Lycos: www.lycos.com

What can you get for two clicks? According to one pupil, "I am two clicks away from whatever term paper I need." The ads don't lie.



Most will agree that plagiarism is on the rise in schools. Why? Term papers are readily available on the Internet for free, or a nominal fee. And they are "just a click away!"

A high school English teacher recently told me that from September to December 2003, one-third of his pupils submitted plagiarised work.

Has plagiarism become an epidemic? How do we control it?

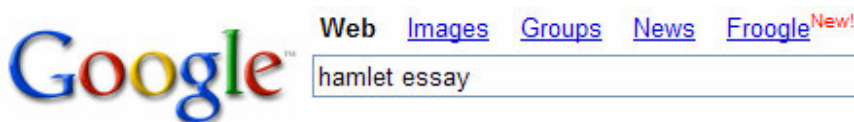
We will never be able to control information on the Internet, but we can control the types of assignments we give pupils. We can also be more aware of what's available to them online.

In this lesson we will see what types of term papers are just a click away. We will explore "paper mills" sites and search for essays available in your subject area. We will also discuss ways to prevent plagiarism in the classroom and learn how to frame assignments that deter pupils from paraphrasing and plagiarising information.

Hamlet for hire

In this activity let's imagine we are pupils studying Hamlet and have just been assigned essay topics. We've all studied Shakespeare at one time in our lives, and in many instances, essay topics assigned to us way back when, are not dissimilar from ones assigned today. Let's assume that we are interested in knowing if there are any Hamlet essays available on the Internet to "borrow."

If we go to Google: www.google.com and type: hamlet essay (with no quotation marks) in the search box, Essays on Hamlet: www.hamletessays.com should be one of your top results.



Web

[Hamlet - Essays & Reports on Shakespeare](http://www.hamletessays.com/)

... delivery! Just click the "View Our **Hamlet Essay List**" button on the menu bar to access a complete catalog of **essays** on **Hamlet**. ...

www.hamletessays.com/ - 15k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Go to this site: www.hamletessays.com.



For \$9.95 (US) a page, over one hundred essays are available. Chances are we will find a paper that suits our needs.

And if we do not need a paper on Hamlet, this site has other options. Go to Links, on the left menu.



This is where it gets interesting.

Hamlet probably isn't the *only* subject you'll ever write an essay on! Fortunately, the Paper Store owns *hundreds* of other essay & report site covering virtually EVERY subject imaginable! Below are links to just a few of the best sites from which to get help writing essays...on *anything*! Just remember to bookmark *HamletEssays.Com* so you can always find your way back here!

Research Papers	Buy Papers	Papers 24-7	The Paper Store
1 2 3 Reports	1 Or More Reports	1 To 1 Essays	Advanced Papers
Book Report Database	Coursework Assistance	Easy Papers	Fastest Essays
On-File Papers	Essay Page	Best Papers	Report Finders
Essay Finders	Get A Paper	More Papers	Paper Hunting
Pick A Paper	Sharing Papers	Writing Papers	Select An Essay
Paper Download	Expert Term Paper Advice	E Coursework	College Level
Paper Topics	Essay Site	Real Papers	1 Million Papers
Essay Girl	Essay Boy	Paper Geeks	No Cheaters
A To Z Papers	Ace Papers	1 Stop For Papers	1 Of The Best Sites
1 Day Term Paper Help	1st Degree Papers	1 Way Essays	Analytical Essay

Scroll through this page to get a good indication of what the pupil meant when he told me he was "Two clicks away!" from whatever he needed.

Look to see if your subject area appears on this list of links. If so be sure to visit these links to see what materials are available to your pupils (if they are so inclined to look!) It should not escape you that there is an Ethics section, where you can download Ethics papers. How's that for irony!

[Ethics](#)

If you wish to visit other paper mill sites, there is the ever popular School Sucks: www.schoolsucks.com



or Kimbel Library: <http://www.coastal.edu/library/pubs/mills2.html>. This site is a library of paper mills assembled by librarians at Coastal Carolina University. A quick scroll

through this site provides an excellent example of just how many paper mills sites are available.

The purpose of showing you these sites is to alert you to how prolific and how easy it is for pupils to plagiarise materials. In the next section, we will discuss strategies to address plagiarism in your classroom.

Consider one assignment you have given your pupils in the past year. Find three sites pupils could access to download resources.

Strategies for preventing plagiarism

The following is a list of suggestions on ways to prevent plagiarism compiled from a variety of Internet resources. The sources are cited at the end. Read through the following list of suggestions to see what pointers you may wish to use in your classroom.

Preventing Plagiarism (this could be a link)

Don't assume pupils know what plagiarism is. Outline your expectations clearly. To begin discussion with pupils consider this questionnaire: Is it plagiarism?:

<http://mciunix.mciu.k12.pa.us/~spjvweb/isitplag.html>

Visit paper mill web sites to search for essays in your subject or topic area before giving assignments. Know what's "out there." Assigning the same types of essays (like a "typical" Hamlet essay), year after year, will increase likelihood of pupils submitting plagiarised assignments.

Show your pupils what is available to them on the Internet. Let them see that you know about these Web sites. Pupils might think twice before submitting a plagiarised paper if they think you may have already seen it.

Have pupils include Web source documents in their research on a regular basis. Teach them how to site sources correctly. For a good online resource tool, try the Citation Machine: www.landmarkproject.com/citation_machine/cm.php

Include specific instructions about bibliographies when assigning research topics. For example, require pupils to include material from required readings and other types of resources.

Approach plagiarism as a copyright issue and as a way to emphasise good writing and source management skills. This approach is more meaningful than simply stating, "Don't plagiarise."

For younger pupils...You may want to begin with Cyberbee to introduce some of the concepts. Go to: http://www.cyberbee.com/cb_copyright.swf



Create assignments that make plagiarism difficult. Look for creative ways to design papers that capture pupil attention. This might include solving real problems in your community, conducting interviews with subject experts as resource material, putting fresh twists on old topics. (We discuss this in more detail in the next activity.)

Structure assignments so pupils bring materials and write papers during class time. Ask to see drafts, hold interviews or have peer-editing conferences. Require drafts to be submitted with final papers.

If you suspect a paper was downloaded from the Web, use a search engine to search for the source. Enter keywords or a string of words in quotation marks in the search box of a search engine. This will lead you to any Web sites with those words.

Since not all search engines index the same sites, it's best to try the search with two or three different engines.

There is also the option of Turnitin: www.turnitin.com. Turnitin, for a fee, will colour code a student paper to tell you if any parts have been plagiarised. Know your school's plagiarism policies and procedures before you begin the course, so you know your options in advance.



Plagiarism Prevention

A proprietary system that instantly identifies papers containing unoriginal material and acts as a powerful deterrent to stop student plagiarism before it starts.

Sources: Leland, Bruce. "Plagiarism and the Web." 01 May 2004. <<http://www.wiu.edu/users/mfbhl/wiu/plagiarism.htm>>.

"Thinking and talking about plagiarism." Technology and Teaching. 01 May 2004.
<<http://bedfordstmartins.com/technotes/techtiparchive/ttip102401.htm>>.

What is your school's policy with respect to plagiarism?

Structuring assignments

One of the main ways to combat plagiarism is to think carefully about the way you structure assignments for your pupils. Assignments that are more focussed and consider authentic forms of assessment will often produce less plagiarised materials.

Things to consider:

Limit the use of Internet research resources

If you are going to have pupils research the Internet for materials, be specific about the Web sites you would like them to access. Research sites first and then direct pupils to the materials you have previewed. Consider having them compare and contrast information from three separate sites. A pupil's time and experience on the Web can be much more meaningful if "contained" as opposed to being sent off with a topic and a search engine.

Create an authentic audience

Have an authentic audience assess pupil work. Local writers can assess creative work; engineers can assess physics labs; community officials can assess reports on environmental issues. Pupils will be less likely to plagiarise if their work is going to be judged by an outside authority.

Post and publish pupil work

Would you post a plagiarised paper if you knew that the whole world could read it? Publishing work for a global audience can motivate pupils and help deter them from plagiarising materials.