Course: UNIV1001 - Online educational strategies

Forum week 2

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As mentioned in the code of conduct, two types of plagiarism exist: the use of direct quotations or paraphrased texts without source attribution and the use of a single piece of academic work at multiple occasions without permission of the course instructor.

The main way plagiarizing could harm you is that you will be perceived as not being trustworthy. In a world where trust is important, not being trusted will lead to people not wanting to collaborate with you and not believing what you say. As science is a debate with the aim to uncover the truth, not being believed or trusted puts you at a severe disadvantage compared to your peers. The same holds true for any career you pick.

As a published academic, the only thing I can do is to adhere to the highest standards of integrity, which includes abiding by the rules UoPeople has set on this topic. By properly citing and not falsifying source data, I have to be an example for the rest of the student body. With regards to my research and writing, I have to make sure I am open and honest about everything related to my research. This not only includes citing correctly and following academic integrity standards, but also making sure everything is reproducible. For this, I not only use proper citation, but also host an open GitHub repository where all my work (including source code) can be found. Doing so makes sure everything is verifiable.

Although plagiarism is the most know form of fraud, several other forms have seen the day of light in my country. Most famous was the case of Diederik Stapel. Professor Stapel was a distinguished psychology professor at the University of Tilburg. His ground-breaking results were published in leading academic journals before it was discovered that the data these studies where based on where falsified. This sparked a nationwide witch hunt in academic circles for other scholars who had committed the same academic offence. As a result of this data falsification. professor Stapel lost his position and was stripped of his PhD title.

Far less known are cases of unauthorized assistance. Here, students hire a company to do part of their research or write parts of their theses and represent this as the student's own work. The companies in question provide assistance that is not allowed under academic policies.

Last, in the short period I have been a teacher, I have experienced cases of misrepresentation. Here, students would try, under false pretences, to get small favours off me. This included extensions of homework deadlines and exclusion of specific tests due to made up personal circumstances.