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1) Plagiarism

Plagiarism Definition:-

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines the act of plagiarism as "to steal & pass off ideas or words of another as one's own". Simply put plagiarism is the process of taking other peoples words or ideas and pretending that they are your own. An alternative definition of plagiarism is forwarded by The Collins dictionary which explains that plagiarism is the practice of using someone else's work and pretending that it is your own. Plagiarism can also be defined as the act of deliberately trying to deceive your academic tutor by submitting content which is not your own work.

Has Plagiarism Been Getting Worse In Recent Years?

In recent years, chiefly due to the popularity of over the internet assignment purchases, plagiarism has gotten worse. There has been a spike plagiarism across much of the academic institution based in the UK.

Indeed in the last 3 years alone 50000 students have been caught thus illustrating the scale of the plagiarism.

Why does it matter?

Plagiarism is a serious problem. If you as a student are caught plagiarising it can have serious consequences for your future academic and work career. Aside from the disciplinary perspective, plagiarism also hinders the extent of which you as a student can learn while in years of academic study. When you cheat through the plagiarism you are ultimately cheating yourself as you have spoiled the chance to learn and develop your knowledge on a specific subject. This learning & development skill set could stand you in good stead for later life so from all perspectives plagiarism is something which should be avoided at all costs.

Common Ways that students Plagiarise

Handing in an Essay that You didn't Write:-

Typically the most common trap student fall into is finding an essay online which contains a similar topic to the one which they had been working on hand and submitting it offline. Some students

have also relied on individuals from their peer groups to write their academic essay for them. In either case they are examples of plagiarism. Chiefly because the words and ideas and critical arguments contained in those essays are not work of the individual submitting it.

Copy Words or Ideas from Someone Else's Work, Without Giving Credit

Often in the process of completing academic work a student will come across an idea or line of work within the existing literature which answers their essay or research question almost exactly. Student often use such resources verbatim without getting due to credit to the original author of the ideas & work. To avoid falling in this particular trap students should consider revising how to reference academic content effectively which is another service the ripper software provides.

Failing to Put a Quote in Quotations Marks

Some academic students also fall foul of not putting quotes in quotations marks therefore

it appears that they have simply copied the work without getting credit to the original author. When a student takes material from books and not enough to copy a large section of text and give a reference you also need to use quotation marks to illustrate that it's a direct quote.

Giving Incorrect Information About the Source Of a Quotation :-

When researching a book academic author has said without reworking the structure by these words to overstate the level of reading which they have carried out unless the student has actually read some of the pieces cited in the source list of these original texts. This can also be considered an element of plagiarism.

Copying Sentence Structure, But

Changing Words Around, Without Giving Credit :-

It is also not enough to simply reword what another academic author has said without reworking of the structure of their critical arguments. This is still considered plagiarism in the world of academia because the student is still guilty of copying.

the structure of the authors arguments which is a key element of their delivery ideas.

Copying So Many Words or Ideas From

Source That It Makes Up the Majority Of Your Work, Whether You Give Credit or Not

Some student stream large part of their essay from the work of existing author in the field. Despite giving proper credit through referencing most of their work is still composite of other peoples ideas and critical arguments & the students own critical insight regarding the subject matter never emerge. It is important for the student to demonstrate that they have the capacity to interpret the complex research topic and rely on their own practical analytical skills to advance critical comment.

Self Plagiarising:

Although it sounds unlikely a student can also be accused of plagiarising their own work and they often do by using substantial section of work stream

from previously submitted content. The key reason why this act is considered plagiarism is because a student cannot be awarded two grades / degrees for the same piece of work. Self plagiarising is a key issue in the modern world of Schools, Colleges & universities as curriculums are becoming longer & larger thus increasing the risk of crossover with respect to certain subjects.

Who Cares If Plagiarise?

You should note there are also a variety of other stakeholders to consider when you cheat as a student such as your academic institutions & future employers.

There are two core fundamental reasons why students should not plagiarise academic content.

Plagiarism is stealing other peoples work ideas, critical arguments & sentence structure. Morally it is a similar act to stealing a car or anything else. The concept remains the same. As a student, if somebody else stole your ideas, how would you feel.

② Plagiarism represents information literacy. If you plagiarise somebody else's work, you are implying that you are incapable of expressing your own thoughts/ideas in an eloquent enough manner to attain a high-grade classification. In essence, being caught plagiarising is an admission of literacy in handling information which is not an impression that you want to create as a student. It can also have as a several adverse effect with respect to the student's ability to enter gainful employment in the future.

2. Intellectual Property & Software laws

Intellectual Property Rights in Software -

What they are & How to Protect them:-

People talk a lot in the information technology business about "intellectual property rights". But what are they? How do they apply to software technology? Why should you protect them? How do you protect them?

Intellectual property rights are at the foundation of the software industry. The term refers to a range of

intangible rights of ownership in an asset such as a software program. Each intellectual property "right" is itself an asset, a slice of the overall ownership pie. The law provides different methods for protecting these rights of ownership based on their type.

These are essentially four types of intellectual property rights relevant to software: patents, copyrights, trade secrets & trademarks.

Patents:-

A Patent is a twenty years exclusive monopoly on the right to make, use & sell a qual of any inventions. This legal monopoly is considered a reward for the time & effort expended on creating the invention. This return the invention must be described in detail to the patent office. Publishes the information, thus increasing the amount of technological knowledge available to the public.

Since rights are exclusive anyone making using or selling the patented invention without the patent owners authorization is guilty of infringement.

penalties are stiff and include triple damages. Once a patent for an invention is granted subsequent "independent" (i.e. without access to the patented technology) development of the invention by another inventor is still considered infringement.

Copyrights:-

While a patent can protect the novel ideas embodied in a software program, a copyright cannot. Copyright protection extends to the particular form in which ideas is expressed in the case of software. Copyright law would protect the source and object code, as well as certain unique original elements of the user interface.

Copyrights protection arises automatically upon the creation of an original work of authorship. There is no need to "apply" for a copyright or register the copyrighted work in order for protection to exist. Generally the duration of a copyright is the author's life plus fifty years.

In contrast with
patents independent of a copyrighted
⑨

work is a defense to an allegation of copyright infringement. Imagine though how unlikely it would be for the same thousands of lines of code to be created independently by two not engaged in unauthorized copying. Unlike patents copyright law affords no protection to the ideas underlying the program. Ideas & concept are fair game for competitors to the extent they are not protected by patents or trade secrets.

Trade Secrets:-

A Trade Secret is any formula, compound device, process tools or mechanism that is not generally known or discoverable by others is maintained in secrecy by its owner and gives its owner a competitive advantage because it is kept secret. The classic example of a trade secret is the formula to Coca-Cola.

A trade secret can theoretically last forever - for as long as its owner does reasonable efforts to keep it secret & someone else doesn't independently create or discover it.

Many features of software, such as code and the ideas & concept reflected in it can be protected as trade secrets. The protection elements retains its trade secret status. Unlike patents trade secrets, protection will not extend to elements of software that are readily ascertainable by lawful means, such as reverse engineering or independent development.

Trade secrets are not subject to being "infringed" as with patents & copyrights, but are subject to theft their legal status as a protectable intellectual property right will be upheld if the owner can prove the trade secrets was not generally known & reasonable steps were taken to preserve its secrecy.

Maximizing the economic value of a software asset critically depends on understanding the nature of the intellectual property rights involved and how best to use the available forms of legal protection those rights.