

How to Prevent, Detect, and Handle Plagiarism

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How to Prevent, Detect, and Handle Plagiarism

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is "an act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author's work as one's own, as by not crediting the original author" ([dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)).

A note from Meggie Royer, author:

Throughout my unfortunately substantial experience with my work being stolen, I've learned a lot of really useful tips to deal with plagiarism. I hope these help!

Information sourced from Meggie Royer, adapted by Sarah Canon, Fall 2017 for WRIT 4662, University of Minnesota.

Prevent

Methods to help prevent plagiarism:

- Whenever you post your own work on a site, make sure to attribute your name or url to it.
- When you publish something online, be sure to include the date along with your name.
- Incorporate any metadata files with your work.

Detect

One of the easiest ways to find plagiarism of your work is to copy and paste lines from your work into Google. If they've been stolen, chances are results will pop up.

Handle: Steps and Resources

There are several steps you can take when handling plagiarized work.

1. When you find a result, contact the 'author' of the plagiarized piece first. Ask them to remove it or to provide credit to you.
2. If they decline, contact the owner of the site the 'author' has posted your work on, and ask them to remove it.
 - Provide them with links of both your original work and the thief's work
 - Send date stamps to show that your piece was written or posted first.
 - Include screenshots for proof of plagiarism, as well.
3. If the owner refuses to remove the piece, go to the following website: www.whoishostingthis.com.
 - Type in the name of the site your stolen work is posted on. This will reveal what company or site is hosting the site your work is on.
4. Once the hosting site pops up, email or contact their abuse department with the same information (screenshots, urls, links, etc.) you originally provided the first site owner. Ask the hosting service to remove the piece.
 - Make sure to provide the hosting service with a formal DMCA notification. You can easily generate one [here](#) and it only takes about 2 minutes.
5. This last step should almost always work. If it doesn't, you have every right to threaten legal action unless the hosting site complies with your request to have your stolen work removed.