"I wrote it. Why re-write it?"

Overview of this session

In this session, learners will be introduced to plagiarism. Learners will view a brief case study and respond to questions related to the presented scenario.

Learning objectives

Through this case, learners will:
1) learn about ethical issues with regard to plagiarism
2) learn about available plagiarism resources plagiarism
3) consider ethical writing practices

Lesson description

Instructional Event	Action		Time	Technology
	Instructor	**Learner**		
1. Introduce learning objectives	− Give an overview of this session − State learning objectives	− Listen and react to instructions − Recognize the necessity of this session	5 min	
2. Observe the case study	− Present the case study and review discussion questions with audience	− Watch the presentation and review discussion questions	2 min 12 sec	Internet capability
3. Talk about discussion questions	− Ask learners for feedback and discuss questions/topic − Facilitate discussion and provide answers	− Ask questions related to the case study − Share ideas or experiences related to discussion questions/ topic	~11 min	
4. Explain essential concepts that learners should know	− Summarize discussion points − Reiterate core concepts of session	− Listen	5 min	
5. Provide feedback	− Ask for feedback and address any remaining questions	− Ask anything related to this session	5 min	
6. Enhancing retention and transfer	− Provide additional materials including links to other resources	− Review additional materials as needed	2 min	

Overview of case study

Ashley is a graduate student (GS) who has agreed to read a draft of a manuscript given to her by the postdoctoral researcher (PD) in her lab. She notices some of the text looks familiar and conducts a search. Ashley tells the PD there are many similarities between the paper she read and some of Dr. Thompson's (their mentor) published manuscripts. The PD assures Ashley it is a common practice to reuse text from previously published papers on the same topic without the use of a citation. Ashley seems surprised to hear this and states she didn't know this was a common practice. The PD assures her it saves time and ensures consistency. Ashley later discloses to another student that the PD had actually copied and pasted full-text passages and left out any citations in the paper, but she is not concerned because it is not her manuscript.

Discussion questions

1. **Was the GS right to be concerned about this practice?**
   Appropriating anyone else's ideas or work and presenting them as your own is considered plagiarism. Based on this, we can conclude the PD has plagiarized even if it is inadvertent. When using text obtained from another source, always use quotation marks and an accompanying citation to denote the origin of the text or idea.

2. **What do you think of the PD's explanation for why he reused old papers?**
   This excuse is not viable. This may be considered common practice to him, but it is considered plagiarism.

3. **What might happen if the PI does not change the text before publication?**
   - The editors may decline the publication of the article
   - Risk of either an editorial requirement for erratum or retraction (if eventually published and later discovered to contain plagiarism)
   - Risk of harm to reputation related to the discovery of plagiarism/self-plagiarism

4. **What do you think of GS's decision to not talk to anyone about her concerns?**
   A responsible action the GS could take is to voice her plagiarism concerns to her mentor. The issue should be corrected prior to submitting the manuscript for publication which could incur even more and potentially more serious consequences if discovered.

5. **What could happen if she does pursue this line of questioning?**
   See previous response.

6. **What would you do in her place?**
   Audience participation question.

Additional discussion prompts
- How would you address suspected plagiarism in your workplace?
- If you suspected someone of engaging in self-plagiarism, would you address the issue the same as you would with plagiarism of someone else's work? Why or why not?

Additional resources

- UK's Responsible Conduct of Research & Scholarly Activity webpage: https://www.research.uky.edu/responsible-conduct-research
- UK's Research Misconduct webpage: Research Misconduct | University of Kentucky Research (uky.edu)
- DHHS ORI's *Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research*: rcrintro.pdf (hhs.gov)
- DHHS ORI's Avoiding Plagiarism, Self-plagiarism, and Other Questionable Writing Practices: A Guide to Ethical Writing: https://ori.hhs.gov/avoiding-plagiarism-self-plagiarism-and-other-questionable-writing-practices-guide-ethical-writing
- Online plagiarism tools:
  - Plagiarisma (free online plagiarism checker) http://plagiarisma.net/
  - iThenticate (subscription required online plagiarism checker) https://www.research.uky.edu/research-misconduct/ithenticate-uk
  - Plagiarismcheck.org (detects similarities and produces unbiased results; requires a subscription) https://plagiarismcheck.org/
  - Similarity texter (a text comparison tool) https://people.f4.htwberlin.de/~weberwu/simtexter/app.html
- UK policies and resources on plagiarism:
  - UK Ombud Plagiarism: What Is It? | Academic Ombud Services (uky.edu)
  - UK ORI RCR webpage Responsible Conduct of Research & Scholarly Activity (RCR) | University of Kentucky Research (uky.edu)
  - UK ORI's tips to avoid plagiarism video: https://rwebmedia.ad.uky.edu/ORI/Research_Misconduct/Plagiarism/index.html