

## Lesson: Plagiarism Basics



**Plagiarism** is the act of presenting the words, ideas, images, sounds, or the creative expression of others as your own. It is a serious problem among students. "A study of almost 4,500 students at 25 schools, suggests cheating is . . . a significant problem in high school - 74% of the respondents admitted to one or more instances of serious test cheating and 72% admitted to serious cheating on written assignments. Over half of the students admitted they have engaged in some level of plagiarism on written assignments using the Internet" (McCabe, 2000). There are two types of plagiarism: intentional and unintentional.

### Intentional plagiarism includes:

- Copying a friend's work.
- Buying or borrowing papers.
- Cutting and pasting blocks of text from electronic sources without documenting.
- Media "borrowing" without documentation.
- Web publishing without permissions of creators.

### Unintentional plagiarism includes:

- Careless paraphrasing
- Poor documentation
- Quoting excessively
- Failure to use your own "voice"

### Consequences for Plagiarism:

The following are possible consequences for plagiarism in an online learning course in the DoDEA Virtual High School. Additional consequences may result from the instructor of the course as well.

- "0" on the assignment
- Parent notification
- Referral to administrators
- Suspension or dismissal from school activities--sports and extracurricular
- Note on student record

### **Resources**

Lathrop, Ann and Kathleen Foss. *Student Cheating and Plagiarism in the Internet Era*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 2000.

McCabe, Donald, "CIA Research." Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 2003.