

## **Detecting plagiarism**

### *Things that might make us suspicious*

Changes in style or tone in the middle of a sentence or paragraph.

Off-topic material

Inconsistency across evaluation components (terrible midterm, great paper)

Mismatch between the sophistication of the wording or individual points and the overall structure or argument. There are programs out there that will allow you to enter a text and it changes things up with synonyms (e.g., synonymizer).

Odd formatting such as font changes, paragraph or margin changes, oddness around foreign characters

Style changes (i.e., use style detector in Word)

### *How do you prove plagiarism*

Google a phrase

There are online plagiarism detectors

Use "search inside" on Amazon, Google Books, [scribd.com](http://scribd.com), or [archive.org](http://archive.org)

### *Preventing plagiarism*

There is no consistent training regarding plagiarism. Assume they have had no direction/discussion/direction on this topic. Probably best to discuss in every class you teach and to discuss it more than once, not just on the first day of classes

Teach them how to write (e.g., online tools and advice, essay writing tutorial, could offer some part of their grade as successfully completing an online quiz that tests their understanding of the rules around plagiarism/writing etc.)

Integrate scholarly ethics and philosophy and the philosophy of knowledge into your teaching  
Warn them that they will get charged with plagiarism.

Consider using a template for submission of papers that includes a definition of plagiarism on the title page. Have them sign it, acknowledging that they haven't plagiarized.

Carefully design your assignments. Choose obscure primary sources, provide at least some of the secondary sources, provide rules on secondary sources (e.g., must come from a particular journal, must be no older than.....)

Get them to submit parts of their work that they would have prepared along the way (e.g., an outline, etc)