

## Preventing Plagiarism

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### The issues

- Student perceptions
- Lack of understanding of how essays are monitored
- Difficulty in understanding the difference between use of a source and copying of a source

### Student perceptions

- Limited knowledge of how serious plagiarism is
- Unclear understanding of what the word means
- Incomplete grasp of the different types of 'plagiarism'

### Approach adopted in high school

- Some students use general web searches as opposed to reading text books, reports, articles.
- Many think that wikipedia is an acceptable source
- Approach adopted is often 'cut and paste'
- Few have been taught to reference

### Lack of understanding of how essays are monitored

- Serious lack of understanding as to how turnitin works
- Interviews with students having a turnitin score of 20+
  - Shock at how we can tell them whose essay they have copied
  - Shock at realising that the system takes in work from all over the world

### The difference between use of a source and copying of a source

- Difficulty in understanding the difference between use of a source and copying of a source
- Lack of experience/ability to précis a piece of information
- Writing skills weak

### The solution

- Development of a quiz based on the plagiarism information available to students
- Students have to undergo the quiz and gain 80% before they can submit the first essay
- The record of undertaking this quiz is kept on file
- Draconian? So far the turnitin scores have been excellent... it works!

### The Way ahead.....

- All first year students to undergo plagiarism exercise in first semester
- Results to be kept on file
- Test to be re-taken at start of year 3
- Emphasis on importance of issue to be included in library sessions for dissertation students