

2016 English Department Adjunct Colloquium

Session: *Academic Integrity and Plagiarism*

HCC Central College, LH 306

April 16, 2016, 10:15 – 11:00 a.m.

Facilitator: Jennifer R. Vacca

Tracey Bretag: “[Plagiarism] is a symptom of a deeply entrenched academic culture that arguably places tangible rewards (grades, diplomas, publications, promotions, grants) above the intrinsic value of learning and knowledge creation. To address the ongoing issue of plagiarism and other breaches of academic integrity, educational institutions must work towards fostering a culture of integrity that goes beyond deterrence, detection, and punishment of students.”

I. Defining the Scope of Plagiarism in the College Classroom

- Take plagiarism survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YHPSYYK>
- Discuss common:
 - types of plagiarism
 - causes of plagiarism
 - methods to identify plagiarism

II. How to Identify Plagiarism

- Review of methods & their effectiveness (consider time spent and accuracy)
 - Discuss TurnItIn.com

III. Determining Penalties for Identified Types of Plagiarism

- Explore: what do you do once you’ve identified plagiarism?
 - “The Three Questions”
 - Review survey responses
 - Learn from peers and their policies
- Discuss the “tough spot”:
 - What happens when the student argues with you/denies plagiarism?
 - Discuss methods of confrontation

IV. Methods of Plagiarism Deterrence

- HAVE A PLAN: BE CONSISTENT & FIRM
- Include firm plagiarism policies **in your syllabus**
- Creates multiple occasions to stress plagiarism awareness
- “Plagiarism Contracts”
- Plagiarism “checker” tools
- Exercises
 - Idiosyncratic assignments; especially avoid general argument topics
 - In-class writing assignments
 - Student-designated penalties
 - Student as “victim” exercises (Deborah Zarka Miller)
 - Review public examples of dishonesty exposed:
 - 2013: Primatologist Jane Goodall’s, *Seeds of Hope*—uncited passages, had to revise book
 - 2012: Performer Mike Daisey—fabricated events shared in multiple interviews; the most famous *This American Life* with Ira Glass (suggest comparing to original *This American Life* episode and/or *Democracy Now*’s “Apple, Accustomed to Profits and Praise, Faces Outcry for Labor Practices at Chinese Factories”
 - 2003 & 2006: James Frey, *A Million Little Pieces* (2003)—literary forgery; the most famous: The Oprah Winfrey Show in 2006

Works Cited / Additional Sources of Interest

Note: the titles of each work are hyperlinked for your convenience.

"460: Retraction." thisamericanlife.org. Ira Glass and Chicago Public Media, 16 March 2012. Web. 16 April 2016.

"Apple, Accustomed to Profits and Praise, Faces Outcry for Labor Practices at Chinese Factories." democracynow.org. Democracy Now!, 10 February 2012. Web. 16 April 2016.

Bretag, Tracey. "Challenges in Addressing Plagiarism in Education." *PLoS Medicine* 10.12 (2013): e1001574. *PMC*. Web. 16 April 2016.

"A Million Little Pieces." wikipedia.org. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., 15 April 2016. Web. 16 April 2016.

Taylor, Matthew. "Jane Goodall blames 'chaotic note taking' for plagiarism controversy." theguardian.com. Guardian News and Media Limited, 31 March 2014. Web. 16 April 2016.

Zarka Miller, Deborah. "A Lesson in Academic Integrity as Students Feel the Injustice of Plagiarism." facultyfocus.com. Faculty Focus, 12 March 2012. Web. 16 April 2016.