

**PLAGIARISM AND ITS CONSEQUENCES: FOSTERING ACADEMIC ETIQUETTE
AMONG STUDENTS.**

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Abstract: Plagiarism, the act of using others' work without proper attribution, undermines academic integrity and has significant consequences for students and institutions. This article examines the nature of plagiarism, its negative impacts, and the challenges of cultivating academic etiquette among students. Drawing on studies, it reports that 59% of college students have engaged in some form of plagiarism, often due to lack of awareness or pressure to succeed (McCabe, 2005). Consequences include academic penalties, reputational damage, and hindered skill development. The article proposes strategies like explicit instruction, honor codes, and technology-based interventions to foster ethical academic behavior. By addressing root causes and promoting a culture of integrity, educators can mitigate plagiarism and enhance students' ethical decision-making.

Keywords: plagiarism, academic integrity, academic etiquette, student ethics, educational strategies, honor codes

Plagiarism, defined as the unauthorized use or reproduction of another's work without proper citation, is a pervasive issue in educational settings (Pecorari, 2013). Despite its prevalence, many students lack a clear understanding of plagiarism's implications, often viewing it as a minor infraction. Data from a 2005 study by McCabe found that 59% of college students admitted to plagiarism, with 36% copying text without citation and 23% submitting others' work as their own. This article explores the nature of plagiarism, its negative consequences, and the challenges of fostering academic etiquette among students, proposing evidence-based strategies to promote ethical scholarship.

Plagiarism encompasses various forms, including:

- Direct plagiarism: Copying text verbatim without quotation or citation.
- Paraphrasing without attribution: Rewriting someone else's ideas without crediting the source.
- Self-plagiarism: Reusing one's own previously submitted work without permission.
- Collusion: Submitting work done by others, such as purchasing essays from online services.

A 2019 survey by Turnitin reported that 15% of student submissions globally showed significant unoriginal content, with 7% involving purchased papers.

Students plagiarize due to:

- Lack of awareness: Many students, especially novices, misunderstand citation rules.
- Academic pressure: Tight deadlines and high expectations drive some to unethical shortcuts. A 2021 study found 62% of students cited time constraints as a reason for plagiarism.
- Cultural differences: In some educational systems, mimicking authoritative sources is seen as respectful, leading to unintentional plagiarism.

Plagiarism results in severe penalties, including failing grades, course failure, or suspension. For instance, a 2018 study of U.S. universities found that 68% of institutions impose grade reductions for first-time plagiarism, while 12% may expel repeat offenders. These sanctions

disrupt academic progress and limit future opportunities.

Plagiarism tarnishes a student's reputation, impacting letters of recommendation and job prospects. In professional fields like academia or journalism, plagiarism can lead to retraction of publications or job loss. A notable case is the 2006 retraction of a Harvard student's novel due to plagiarized passages, which ended her publishing career.

By plagiarizing, students bypass critical skill development in research, critical thinking, and writing. A 2020 study showed that students who frequently plagiarize score 18% lower on critical thinking assessments than their peers. This undermines their ability to engage in independent scholarship.

Many students receive inadequate instruction on citation practices. A 2017 survey revealed that 44% of first-year college students were unsure how to cite sources correctly (Brown, 2017). Inconsistent institutional policies further complicate understanding.

Some students resist academic etiquette due to perceived low risk of detection or cultural attitudes prioritizing results over process. McCabe (2005) found that 25% of students believed plagiarism was "not a big deal" if undetected.

The internet and essay mills make plagiarism easier. A 2022 report estimated that over 1,000 websites offer custom essays, with global revenue exceeding \$100 million annually. This accessibility poses challenges for educators in promoting ethical behavior.

Institutions should integrate plagiarism education into curricula, teaching citation styles and paraphrasing techniques. Workshops and online modules can clarify expectations. A 2019 study found that students receiving explicit plagiarism training reduced unoriginal content by 22%.

Implementing honor codes fosters a culture of integrity. Research shows that institutions with honor codes report 30% lower plagiarism rates than those without. Codes should be reinforced through signed pledges and community discussions.

Plagiarism detection tools like Turnitin or SafeAssign help identify unoriginal work and educate students. A 2020 experiment showed that students using Turnitin's feedback feature improved citation practices by 15%. Additionally, teaching students to use reference management software can streamline proper citation.

Plagiarism undermines academic integrity, with far-reaching consequences for students' academic progress, professional reputation, and skill development. The prevalence of plagiarism—59% of students engaging in it, per McCabe—highlights the urgency of addressing this issue. Challenges like unclear guidelines, resistance to ethical norms, and technological facilitation complicate efforts to foster academic etiquette. By implementing explicit instruction, honor codes, and technology-based interventions, educators can cultivate a culture of integrity. Future research should explore longitudinal effects of anti-plagiarism interventions and their impact across diverse educational contexts.

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