

IV-Action. Cryptomnesia & Binge writing: Discussion & Debate *How do you ensure best practices when writing from sources?*



Read “You didn’t Plagiarize, Your Unconscious Did,” a *Newsweek* article by Russ Juskalian at this link: <http://www.newsweek.com:80/id/205560/output/print>. Get into a small group (3-4), discuss and debate the questions below. Can you achieve consensus?

- 1) How does cryptomnesia happen? What causes it, according to whom? What kind of examples do they give? Have these situations ever happened to you? For example, has anyone else ever taken credit for one of your ideas?

- 2) Based on what these scientists are studying, do you think it is possible to accidentally plagiarize? Do you think most plagiarism in academic settings is this kind of “psychological sloppiness,” according to Juskalian, or just old-fashioned cutting corners to get ahead?

- 3) What kind of consequences would you recommend for a student guilty of cryptomnesia? Our university handbook states: “A student who commits an act of academic misconduct will be given the grade of F in the course . . . The program in which the student is housed may expel the student from the university on the first offense.” Is this policy fair, or too harsh?

- 4) Based on this article and your own experience, what advice would you give other students and new authors in your field, especially potential collaborators on papers for publication? Are there potential ethical and psychological pitfalls that they need to know about?