

Faculty Quiz: Answers & References

QUESTION 1

TRUE. This definition does not necessarily hold true outside of academia. Additionally, while there are firm conventions regarding citations (e.g. APA, MLA, CBE, IEEE), there appears to be no established norm on 1) the quantity of original text that is appropriate to use and 2) the quality of the paraphrase. See Bertram Gallant (2008) on definitions and norms.

QUESTION 2

FALSE. Howard (2007), who has studied the issue for more than 20 years, points out that there are no longitudinal studies to prove an increase over time, although media headlines convey alarm.

QUESTION 3

FALSE. Plagiarism prevalence rates vary widely from an estimated 18% to 32% (Dee & Jacob, 2010) and 51% (McCabe, 2005) to a much higher number, 79% (Sheard et al., 2003), depending upon methodology. Self-reporting is often biased; text analysis employs different norming conventions, making it hard to establish a true rate.

QUESTION 4

TRUE. See *Newsweek* article <http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2009/07/06/you-didn-t-plagiarize-your-unconscious-did.html> and Bredart et al. (2003). This does not mean that cryptomnesia offers a convenient excuse; rather, that writers must know that their memories/habits are not trustworthy and upgrade their summarizing, sourcing, and citing processes (e.g. adopt an Ethical Summary Protocol) to compensate.

QUESTION 5

TRUE. See Brown & Howell (2001). Many students enter college with a lack of knowledge, skill, and judgment regarding sourcing and citing. They do not understand that they have entered a scholarly conversation with a new and different social contract. Until they construct that *ethos* for themselves, they may not embrace it. See Devlin & Gray (2007), Evans & Youmans (2000), & Power (2009).

QUESTION 6

FALSE. See Howard et al. (2010). An intensive study of the academic writing of 18 student writers and their source material showed that not a single student wrote a whole-text summary; instead, they habitually paraphrased and mined quotes at the sentence level, from the first 1-3 pages of source material. Also see Pennington (2010).

QUESTION 7

FALSE. See Brown and Howell (2001) and Nadelson (2007). Ironically, warning messages and zero-tolerance policies seems to have little effect or even the opposite effect. Students respond more positively to educational messages than threat of sanctions.

QUESTION 8

FALSE. Scholarship is global. The international gatekeepers – editors at scholarly journals, researchers and faculty – subscribe to the same *ethos* (Liu, 2005). However, countries may have looser controls over instruction, mentoring, and enforcement of policies, which may account for students' explanations (Evans & Youmans, 2000).

QUESTION 9

TRUE. Software detection programs report many false positives and cannot catch accomplished serial plagiarists (Warn, 2006).

QUESTION 10

TRUE. This has implications for faculty who assume that plagiarism is an undergraduate problem (Nadelson, 2007; Sheard et al., 2003; Wadja-Johnson et al., 2001).

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