

Digital Citizenship Lesson Plan
Plagiarism

General Topic (as defined in the Digital Literacy Framework)	DG2
Digital Citizenship g) Creative Credit and Copyright	
Applicable Grade Range	
3-5	
Outcome(s) to be Addressed	
The student understands the concept of plagiarism, and when and how it is okay to use the work of others.	
Importance / Significance of Lesson	
Students at a young age need to develop an understanding of copyright and giving credit for other peoples work used in their own. In a day and age where illegal downloading and file sharing is becoming the norm, students need to understand the legal implications of using content created by others and calling it their own.	
Duration	
30 minutes	
Overview	
Students will develop a definition of plagiarism using a variety of sources and then review ways of being able to use other people’s ideas or work as part of their own. The lesson will end with a funny Xtranormal video about plagiarism.	
Required Resources	
Computer hooked up to a projector Class set of laptops/access to the computer lab OR class set of iPads/iPods	

Lesson Plan and Extension Activities

Break students into three groups and have each group research the concept of plagiarism in a different way:

Group 1 – read or listen to the article presented at <http://kidshealth.org/kid/feeling/school/plagiarism.html>

Group 2 – watch the video (for college level students but still appropriate and entertaining) at <http://edtech2.boisestate.edu/jenniferharris2/502/scavenger.html>

Group 3 - look up the definition for plagiarism on Wikipedia, in the dictionary or from another similar source.

Have each group discuss what they've researched and try to develop a kid friendly definition of the word 'plagiarism'. Work as a class to share definitions and merge them into one overall description that the class agrees on.

Once you have a definition that everyone can understand and accept, look at when and how it is okay to use other people's work in your own:

- 1) If you find some information that you would like to use in your work, you can copy and paste a part of it into your assignment to support your own ideas, as long as you always cite your references – have a page at the end of your report or assignment that notes where the information came from (book, website, article, etc.), the date the information was published and who the original author was, as well as a link or information so that your teacher can find the information, too, to double check the research you have done. Don't forget to provide a note in your paper where you use the information noting the author's name and date of publication.
- 2) If someone has an idea that you would like to expand on in your work, but not use a particular part of what you wrote, you can say something like 'Smith (2011) suggests that hamsters like vegetables and I agree but find that specifically they like....' Note that I didn't give a part of what Smith said, but I did refer to his work so I have to give his name and the date he published his work, as well as provide a full reference for my teacher at the end of my paper.

- 3) Never copy someone else's writing and claim to have written it yourself. First, it's unfair to them, second, you haven't really earned the credit for the work that's been done, and third, your teacher will be able to tell that you didn't write it and then you could get into trouble.
- 4) If you copy a picture or video from a website to use in a presentation, make sure that you tell people where you found it. By saying 'Picture from: www.critterbabies.com', people will know that you did not take the picture or make the video and credit is given to the website where you got it.
- 5) If someone uses something you created in their work, ask them to give you credit for it – it's awesome that they felt it was fitting for what they are doing and you can be happy to help, but they should let people who read their work know that you had a part to play.

Finish the lesson by watching this clip about plagiarism as a class.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdOYE-FLNuo> (uploaded by Kristina Skywalker)

Adaptations

Older students may find the videos simplistic (yet still likely entertaining) and will be able to develop more complex definitions of plagiarism.

Additional Resources

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EqPkMN5S3g> Background for teachers

Cross-curricular Outcomes Also Addressed

Social Studies – research practices

Language Arts – reading and viewing for information

~developed by Kristin Sward, 2014



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