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Exploring and Preventing Accidental Plagiarism in a Digital Age

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Exploring and Preventing Plagiarism in a Digital Age

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KAPLAN UNIVERSITY | Academic Support Center

Issue

- **Students use information from the Internet without proper attribution, but students attest to using their own words and ideas**
- **Quick Internet search locates sentences and passages they have used verbatim**
- **Where is the disconnect?**

Questions

- How do digital natives view information accessed via the Internet?
- How do digital natives conduct academic research and use it in their writing?
- How do students define common knowledge?
- How can educators best assist students who complete online research and present with plagiarism issues in their writing?

Copy/Paste – Two Most Frequent Types of Plagiarism

Clone

- Submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own

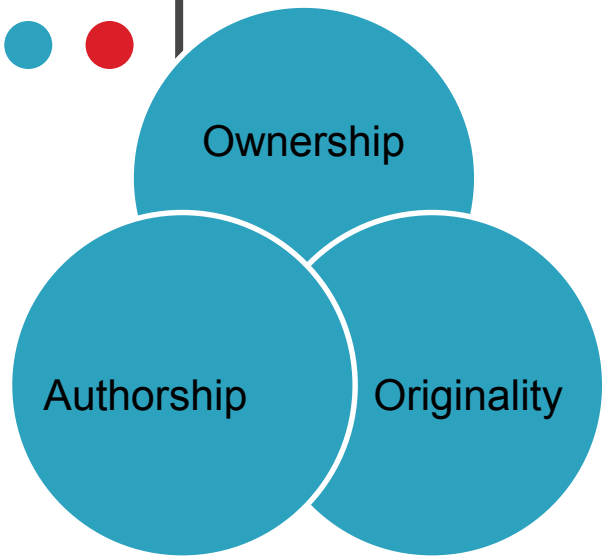
CTRL-C

- Contains significant portions of text from a single source without alteration (Turnitin, 2010).

Academic Research

Before Internet	After Internet
Limited access	Easy access via computer, devices
Physical possession	No physical possession of source
Careful note-taking	Copy and paste (Gabriel, 2010)

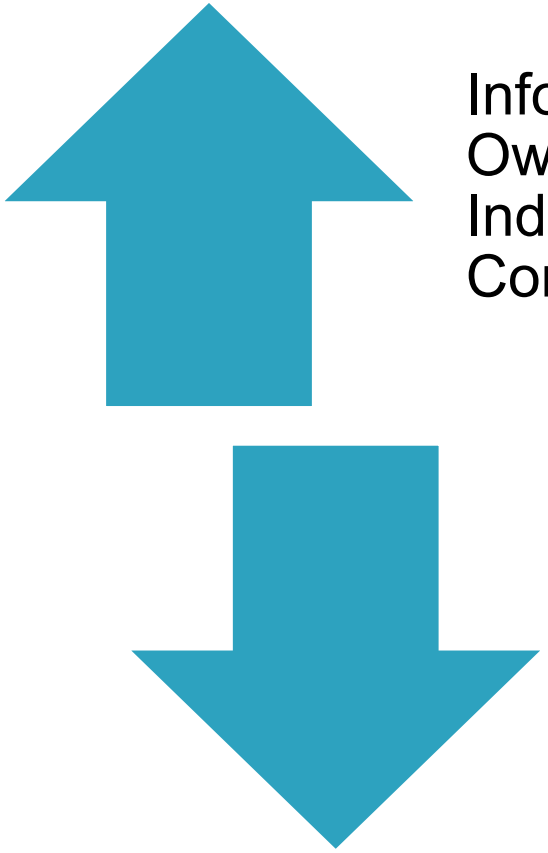
"A digital culture that promotes sharing, openness and re-use is colliding with one of the fundamental tenets of education – the ability to develop, organize and express original thoughts" (Turnitin, 2011).



"Today's digital culture has blurred the lines of originality and authorship" (Turnitin, 2010).

Changing views of ownership and originality, as well as different ways of acquiring information may be linked to increased plagiarism among digital natives. Trip Gabriel (2010) suggests that digital natives may see information accessed via the internet as belonging to all and free for the taking – without attribution.

Shifting Views of Information and Knowledge



Information Individually Owned, Knowledge Independently Constructed

Information Communally Owned, Knowledge Collaboratively Constructed (Gallant, 2014).

The Internet is a "mutual brain that we can all tap"
~ Anonymous student (as cited in Gallant, 2014).

Defining Common Knowledge

I found this on Wikipedia, so it must be common knowledge.

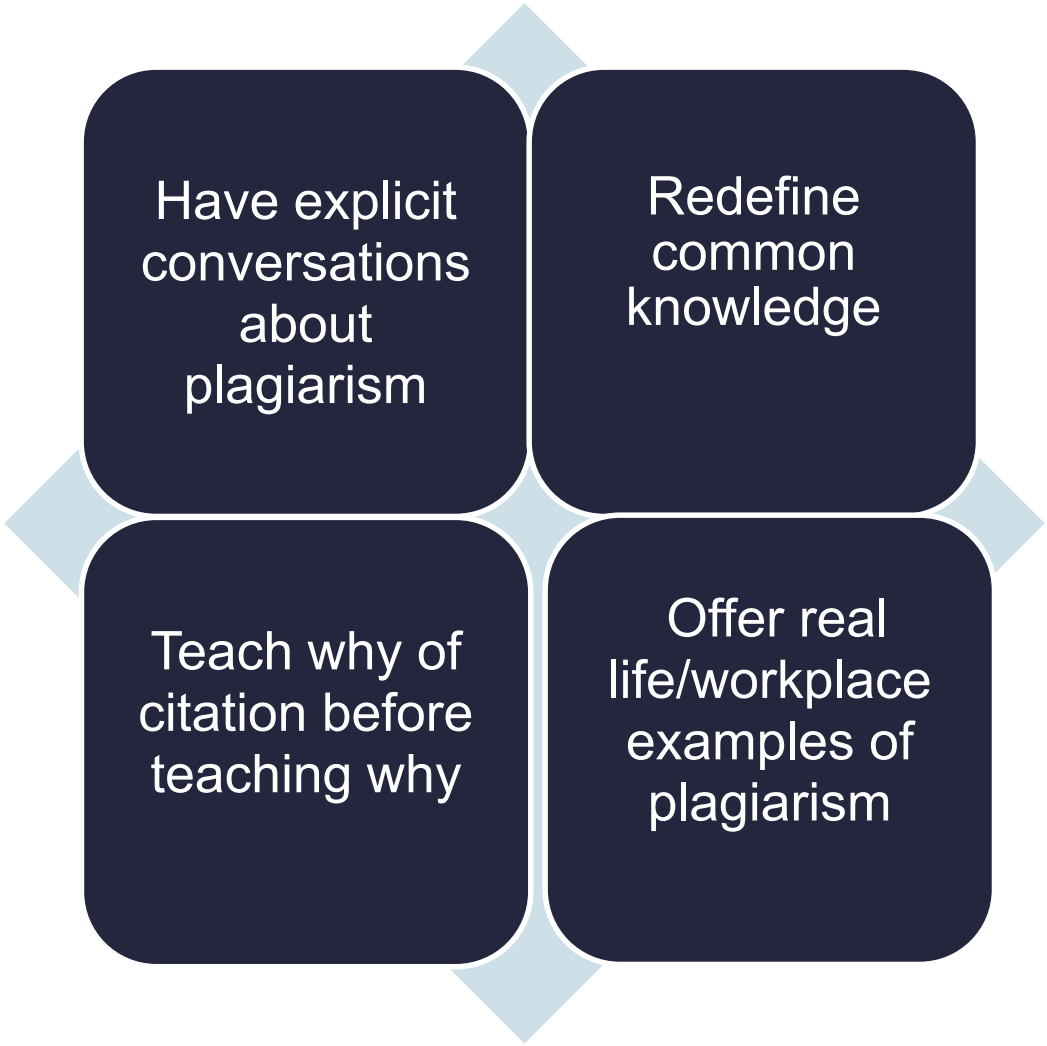
This information can be found in five or more different sources, so it is common knowledge.

(Gallant, 2014)

Institutional Solutions

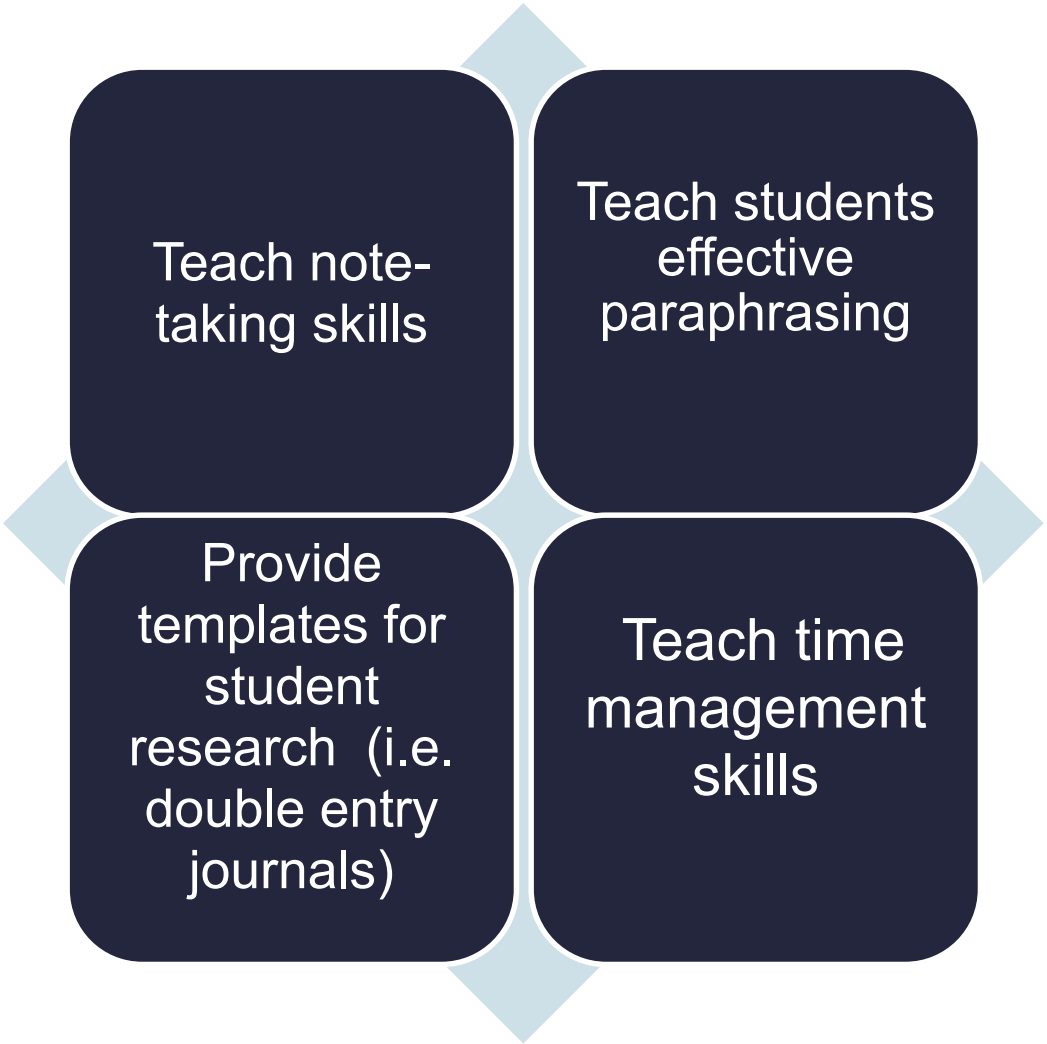
(Evering & Moorman, 2012; Gallant, 2014; Turnitin, 2010, 2011)

Classroom Solutions



(Evering & Moorman, 2012; Gallant, 2014; Turnitin, 2010, 2011)

Classroom Solutions



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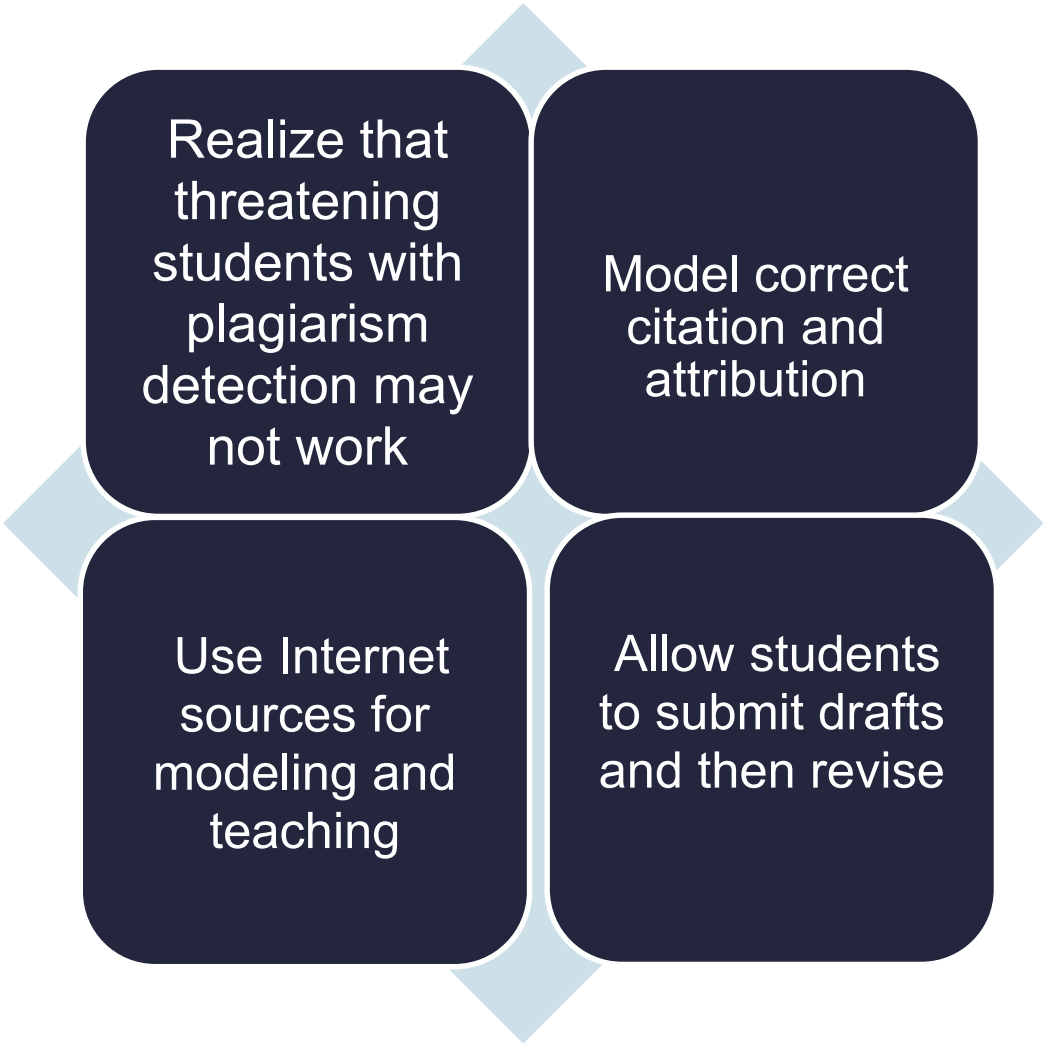
Classroom Solutions



(Evering & Moorman, 2012; Gallant, 2014; Turnitin, 2010, 2011)

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