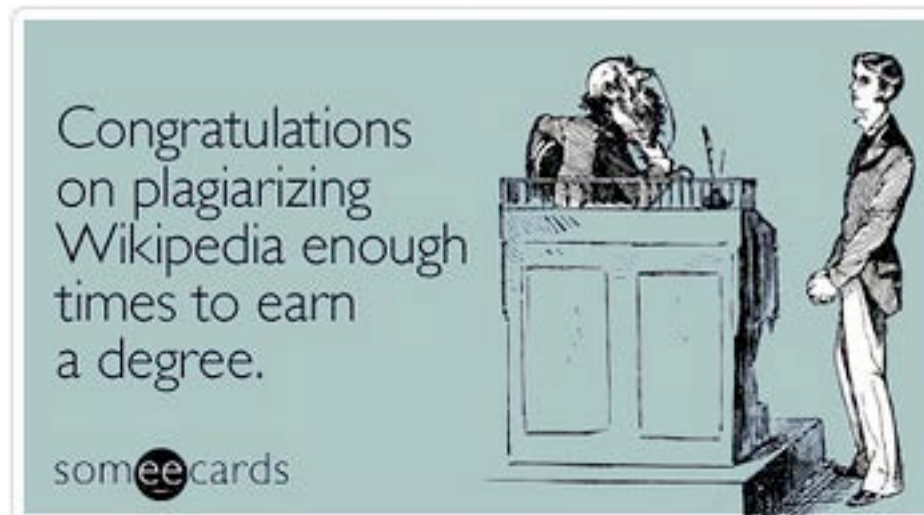


The Plagiarist's Dilemma: Game Theory and Academic Integrity



Malcolm Hays

3  

Creature - Instructional Developer

When Malcolm Hays enters play,
all Blackboard problems are resolved...

*"I have no idea, but we'll figure
something out..."*

— Steve Prescott




3/4

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Rasmus Kerwin

3  

Creature - Instructional Developer

- : Troubleshoot Blackboard issues
-  : Send out communications

"Sometimes, it's about sending a message."

— Jung Park

7/1

TM & © 1993-2011 Wizards of the Coast LLC 106/175

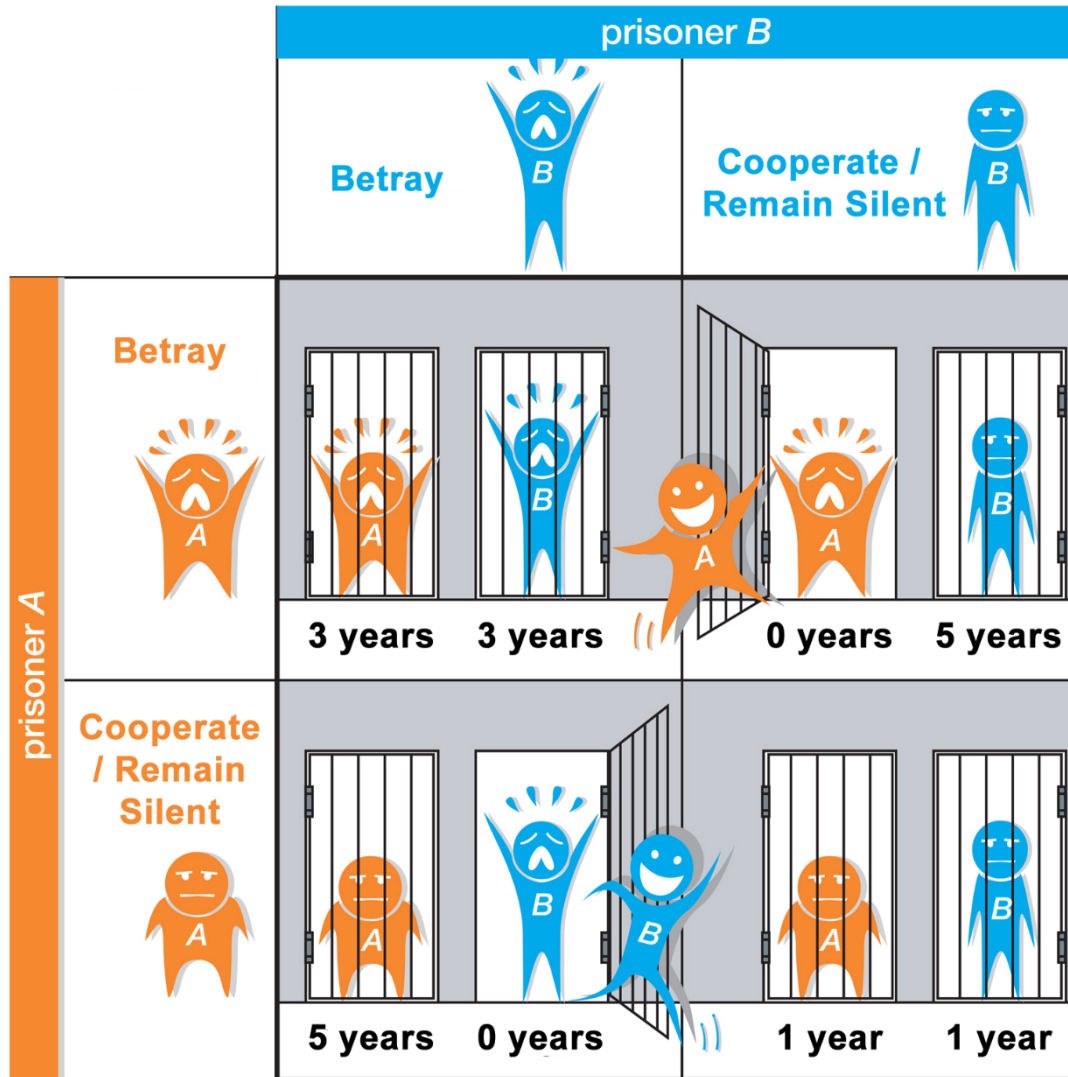




Classic Game Theory Scenario...



Prisoner's Dilemma



Prisoner's Dilemma

- Ultimately an exercise in cost-benefit analysis
- Each participant makes a choice:
 - Which option will yield the most benefit for me based on assumptions I must make?
 - Will the other party betray me?
 - Will the other party cooperate with me and stay silent?
- Has many different applications in the real world
 - Environmental studies
 - Animal behavior
 - Psychology
 - Economics
 - Sports (e.g. steroid use / doping)
 - Student behavior



Prisoner's Dilemma: Iterated Snowdrift

- Risk of being exploited through defection is lower
- Individuals always gain through cooperation
- 2 people separated by a snowdrift
 - Either one person shovels, no-one shovels, or both shovel
 - If only one person shovels, the other one receives the benefit
 - Similar to group-work where all participants have choice on how much to contribute to the overall effort.



Plagiarist's Dilemma

- Variation of the Prisoner's Dilemma
- Students in a class have the option to cheat or not cheat.
- Each choice has its pros and cons



Plagiarist's Dilemma Matrix

	Integrity	Plagiarize
Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May take longer to graduate• Students receive solid education• Students develop positive work/study habits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education/degree is devalued• Students aren't prepared for jobs• Students don't meet educational goals• Honest students are penalized
Plagiarize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education/degree is devalued• Students aren't prepared for jobs• Students don't meet educational goals• Honest students are penalized	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Institution becomes devalued• Education/degree is devalued• May be blacklisted from publications• Academic awards (degrees) may be revoked



Student Perceptions of the Rules of the Game...



Why do students plagiarize?



Don't know how to properly cite

.....



Why do students plagiarize?



Doubt whether they're
doing it the right way

.....

Why do students plagiarize?



Don't know how to research

.....



Why do students plagiarize?



Don't understand
plagiarism concept

.....



Why do students plagiarize?



Teachers don't enforce
ethical standards



Why do students plagiarize?



Students think it's OK to
purchase work from someone else

.....



Why do students plagiarize?



Students don't understand
the goals of education

.....



Why do students plagiarize?



Cheating is part of the culture

.....



The Games People Play...



Plagiarism/Cheating in the News

SATs in South Korea (2013)



Standardized exam canceled in South Korea after widespread cheating. CNN's Dan Rivers reports.

SOURCE: <http://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2013/05/10/dnt-rivers-skorea-sat-scandal.cnn>

Plagiarism/Cheating in the News

University of North Carolina (2014)

UNC report finds 18 years of academic fraud to keep athletes playing

Sara Ganim and Devon Sayers, CNN Investigations

🕒 Updated 10:28 AM ET, Thu October 23, 2014



Ex-UNC star: Fake classes helped me play 04:06

School cheating scandals



SATs thrown out in cheating scandal



Indicted teachers tell their stories

From smartwatch and smartpen... to smartcheat?

More from CNN



Pelosi 'insulted' by Netanyahu speech



Dad denounces 'Jihadi John' as 'a dog ... a terrorist'



Plagiarism/Cheating in the News

University of Regina in Canada (2014)

UPDATED | University of Regina prof investigated for allegedly plagiarizing student's work

Engineering journal article retracted following expert review

By Geoff Leo, CBC News | Posted: Nov 13, 2014 4:00 AM CT | Last Updated: Nov 13, 2014 5:57 AM CT



University of Regina engineering professor Shahid Azam refutes accusations that he plagiarized his former student's master's thesis. (CBC)

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SOURCE: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/university-of-regina-prof-investigated-for-allegedly-plagiarizing-student-s-work-1.2832907>

Plagiarism/Cheating in the News

Ex-VC of Delhi University Jailed (2014)

RELATED KEYWORDS: [Ex-VC-of-DU](#) | [Delhi-University-VC](#) | [Delhi-University](#)

Ex-VC of DU sent to jail for 'plagiarism', released

TNN | Nov 26, 2014, 05:51AM IST

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NEW DELHI: Amid high drama, former [Delhi University](#) vice-chancellor Deepak Pental was sent to jail by a city court in a case of alleged plagiarism and forgery. However, the Delhi high court stayed the arrest order by evening and directed the Tihar Jail authorities to immediately release the academic.

Justice S Muralidhar granted the relief on urgent mentioning by Pental's lawyer and said the stay will remain in force till the next date of hearing.

Earlier, additional chief metropolitan magistrate Vinod Kumar Gautam had ordered professor Pental's arrest on a complaint by professor P Parthasarathy accusing him and one of his students of plagiarizing his paper on biotechnology. Parthasarathy also accused him of illegally using cobalt, a chemical substance, from the university's science lab.



The Delhi high court stayed the arrest order by evening and directed the Tihar Jail authorities to immediately release the academic.

SOURCE: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Ex-VC-of-DU-sent-to-jail-for-plagiarism-released/articleshow/45278628.cms>

Plagiarism/Cheating in the News

Senator John Walsh's election bid (2014)

POLITICS

Senator's Thesis Turns Out to Be Remix of Others' Works, Uncited

John Walsh, Democrat, Confronts Questions of Plagiarism

By JONATHAN MARTIN JULY 23, 2014



John Walsh Matt Volz/Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats were thrilled when John Walsh of Montana was appointed to the United States Senate in February. A decorated veteran of the Iraq war and former adjutant general of his state's National Guard, Mr. Walsh offered the Democratic Party something it frequently lacks: a seasoned military man.

On the campaign trail this year, [Mr. Walsh](#), 53, has made his military service a main selling point. Still wearing his hair close-cropped, he notes he was targeted for killing by Iraqi militants and says his time in uniform informs his views on a range of issues.

SOURCE: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/24/us/politics/montana-senator-john-walsh-plagiarized-thesis.html>

**Don't play their
game...Make them
play yours!**



Strategies to Minimize Plagiarism

- Teach students about authorship conventions and how to avoid plagiarism
 - Teach students important skills
 - Summarizing
 - Paraphrasing
 - Critical analysis
 - Referencing and citation
 - Include assessments that force students to practice these skills

SOURCE: 36 strategies to minimise (sic) plagiarism. (n.d.) Retrieved March 8, 2015, from http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/348328/36_strategies_to_minimise_plagiarism.pdf

Strategies to Minimize Plagiarism

- Counter plagiarism through the design of assessment tasks
 - Randomize questions and answers on electronic quizzes and assignments
 - Avoid asking students to collect, describe and present
 - Make them analyze and evaluate
 - Use alternatives to standard “essay type” questions
 - Case studies are more difficult to plagiarize
 - Have students give brief presentations

SOURCE: 36 strategies to minimise (sic) plagiarism. (n.d.) Retrieved March 8, 2015, from http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/348328/36_strategies_to_minimise_plagiarism.pdf

Strategies to Minimize Plagiarism

- Ask for evidence!
 - Annotated bibliography—forces students to analyze their sources for relevance on their research topic
 - Use a meta-essay or meta-assignment where students have to answer question “What did you learn?”
 - Insist on evidence for significant claims
 - Return assignments to be redone if students can’t meet the criteria for evidence

SOURCE: 36 strategies to minimise (sic) plagiarism. (n.d.) Retrieved March 8, 2015, from http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/348328/36_strategies_to_minimise_plagiarism.pdf

Strategies to Minimize Plagiarism

- Make positive use of collaborative work
 - Have students work together in groups but submit individual assignments
 - Include a mechanism to account for “shirkers”
 - Ensure criteria for evaluating group work is clearly understood
 - Provide peer-evaluations for group work and include that as part of the overall assessment

SOURCE: 36 strategies to minimise (sic) plagiarism. (n.d.) Retrieved March 8, 2015, from http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/348328/36_strategies_to_minimise_plagiarism.pdf

Strategies to Minimize Plagiarism

- Familiarize yourself with resources that can be used for plagiarism/cheating
 - Use a search engine to find sites students may use.
 - Show students that you know how to use the Internet, too!
 - Demonstrate the PROPER way to search on the web!

SOURCE: 36 strategies to minimise (sic) plagiarism. (n.d.) Retrieved March 8, 2015, from http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/348328/36_strategies_to_minimise_plagiarism.pdf

Strategies to Minimize Plagiarism

- Use detection software and other tools
 - Have students submit assignments electronically.
 - Run assignments through software that checks for similarities with other papers (e.g. Turnitin, iThenticate)
- Use deterrence penalties and **ENFORCE THEM!**
 - E.g. first offense results in failing assignment, second means failing the subject, third results in institutional disciplinary action, etc...
- Archive student work for later cross-checking

SOURCE: 36 strategies to minimise (sic) plagiarism. (n.d.) Retrieved March 8, 2015, from http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/348328/36_strategies_to_minimise_plagiarism.pdf

Strategies to Minimize Plagiarism

- Respond quickly to incidents of plagiarism!
 - Be firm and fast in responding
 - Blatant examples of plagiarism should be dealt with immediately
 - Sometimes, it's about sending a message!

SOURCE: 36 strategies to minimise (sic) plagiarism. (n.d.) Retrieved March 8, 2015, from http://www.utas.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/348328/36_strategies_to_minimise_plagiarism.pdf

You can win the plagiarist's dilemma!

