Plagiarism: Wikistyle

Purpose:

This approach to plagiarism puts the definition and understanding into the students' hands. It allows them to conceptualize the problems of plagiarism, how it translates into digital spaces and the consequences of plagiarism through a medium in which they might likely compose in the future. Most importantly, it creates a sense of "ownership" of standards that they will uphold for themselves and their classmates.

Assignment:

Create a wiki and invite students (via email) to be members of the space; establish two wiki pages: one for definition/understanding and one for consequences in print and digital composition. Using a two part approach, have students read the FSU policy on Plagiarism and then establish their own definition of what plagiarism is, how it is defined by the institution, and how it translates to digital projects (where students most likely remix/remediate images/video/audio in some way). Have students edit the wiki on their own time and have them initial their definitions; otherwise, their posts will replace classmates' posts instead of creating a working definition with 20-25 voices. Discuss their responses and positions regarding plagiarism. Then direct them to the honor code in the student handbook, which outlines consequences for plagiarism/cheating. Then students will respond to the second wiki.

Prompting questions for part one: What does plagiarism include? How do you define it? How does FSU conceptualize it? What is missing? How does plagiarism affect digital spaces/projects? Is there a difference between intended and accidental plagiarism?

Prompting questions for part two: What do you think the consequences for plagiarism should be? How does our institution punish plagiarism? Does that work for digital projects?

Discussion Questions: How does the use of a wiki create a different conversation about plagiarism? Does it complicate the concept? Who "owns" our definition? How will this class help you avoid plagiarism?

After both sections are complete, have students sign the "contract" that acknowledges their participation in a plagiarism activity. Throughout the semester, students will have access to this wiki to revisit (and potentially revise) as you work on projects and build their writing toolboxes.

Medium: Wiki (<u>www.wikispaces.com</u> works well)

Important File: FSU Student Handbook

Screenshots of "example wiki"



