

Academic Honesty in the Faculty of Engineering

Faculty of Engineering

Prof. Anthony So

Associate Dean (Student Affairs)

10 August 2018

Why *Academic Honesty*?

- University trains intellectuals and promotes creativity, therefore ***CUHK will not tolerate***
 - **Plagiarism** (i.e. “copying”) assignments or course works
 - **Cheating and/or misbehaving** in tests and exams

- What is *plagiarism*?
 - “an attempt to pass off the works”
(i.e. take some else’s work as yours)
e.g. creative ideas, **report, course work, writing** or **computer program** of others (or even your own previous works, i.e. self-plagiarism), as your own

General Principles

- Do not look at solutions that are not your own
 - Do not share your solution with others
 - Give proper acknowledgement to any help you received
-
- Bottom Line: Discussion of ideas are encouraged, but each student must **work out their own submission** and **give credits where they are due**

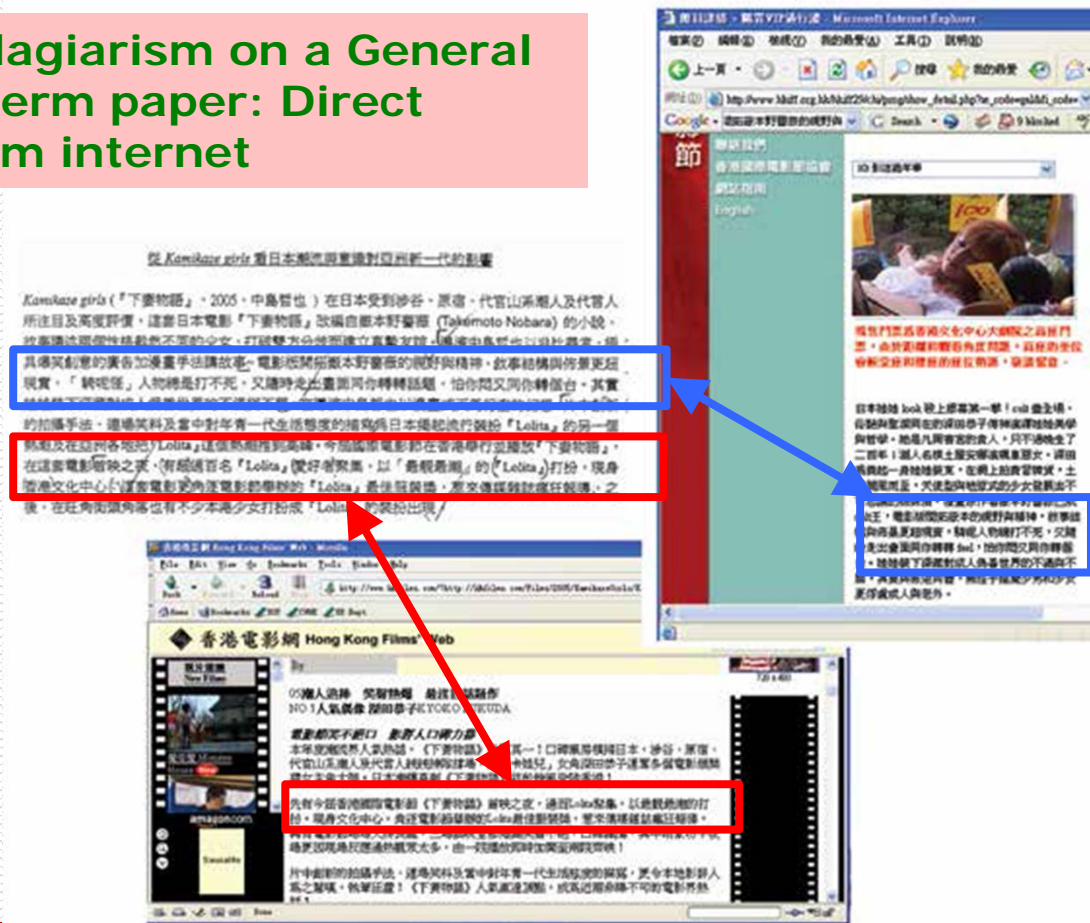
Common mistake #1 – Direct Copying

Assignments, Laboratory and Project reports

- ❑ Professors and tutors perform routine spot checks
- ❑ Do not copy classmate's assignment solution or computer program lines – *tell your classmate politely that copying is against CUHK regulation if such request arises*
- ❑ Do not copy classmate's data
 - Redo experiment or information search if necessary
 - Write your own report even you take the data with your classmates unless it is a group report
- ❑ Discussions between classmates are good, but direct copying of analysis is not acceptable
- ❑ If a case of plagiarism is established, ***BOTH PARTIES (source student and copying student) will get the same penalty***

Common mistake #2 – Direct Copying without quotation

A case of plagiarism on a General Education term paper: Direct copying from internet



Use quotations "... " to denote text copied from internet, then cite the source in reference list

Proper use of source materials

- Mark relevant text by **quotation marks**

e.g."To be, or not to be" [1]

← Cited reference listed in end of document

- **A reference to the original source**

e.g. An effective motion control strategy based on video image feedback [2].....

- **A bibliography, giving the list of references**

This is usually given at the end of the article/paper, or at the end of each page.

Example:

[1] D. Davids, Journal of Nanotechnology, vol..., page..., year...

[2] Y. Smith, Electronic Letters, vol..., page..., year...

.....

Common mistake #3 – Computer program

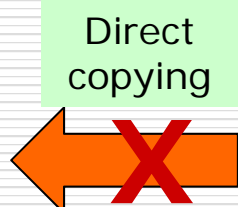
Computer programming assignments

```

/*-----*/
/*******/
/* Copied from my classmate Student A * /
/*******/
/*-----*/
int findLargest(int size, int a[]) {
    int i, tmp = 0;

    for (i = 1; i < size; ++i)
        if (a[i] > a[tmp])
            tmp = i;

    return(tmp);
}
/*-----*/
    
```



```

/*-----*/
int findLargest(int size, int a[]) {
    int i, tmp = 0;

    for (i = 1; i < size; ++i)
        if (a[i] > a[tmp])
            tmp = i;

    return(tmp);
}
/*-----*/
    
```

Slight structural changes



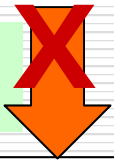
```

/*-----*/
int findLargest(int size, int a[]) {
    int tmp;
    int i;
    tmp = 0;
    i = 0;
    ++i;
    while (i < size) {
        if (a[i] > a[tmp])
            tmp = i;
        ++i;
    }

    return(tmp);
}
/*-----*/
    
```

FOR loop → WHILE loop

Change of variable names



```

/*-----*/
int findL(int s, int b[]) {
    int j, tmp1 = 0;
    for (j = 1; j < s; ++j)
        if (b[j] > b[tmp1])
            tmp1 = j;
    return(tmp1);
}
/*-----*/
    
```

"a" → "b"

Superficial changes



```

/*-----*/
int findLargest(int size, int a[]) {
    int tmp;
    int i;
    tmp = 0;
    for (i = 1; i < size; ++i)
        if (a[tmp] < a[i])
            tmp = i;
    return(tmp);
}
/*-----*/
    
```

"(a[i] > a[tmp])" → "a[tmp] < a[i]"

Handling of Cases in the Faculty

- ❑ Teachers and tutors will carry out checking on assignments and course works; sometimes using anti-plagiarism software such as **VeriGuide**
- ❑ Teachers/Tutors will collect evidences of suspected cases and report to **Faculty Disciplinary Committee (FDC)**

Handling of Cases in the Faculty

- ❑ FDC will interview the student(s) in question, look into case details, and decide on the penalty if the case is established
- ❑ The penalty scheme adopted by FDC is clearly stated in **Faculty Guidelines**

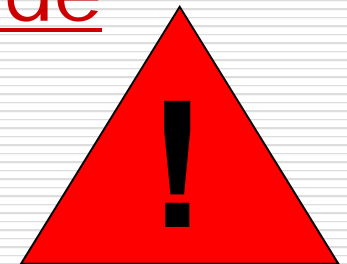
Handling of Plagiarism Cases in the Faculty

- Minimum penalty: one demerit (may be removed at graduation if no further offence committed), zero mark for the work concerned and completion of relevant training in academic honesty
- For severe cases, the penalty could be a fail grade for the whole course, **AND** permanent demerit(s) to be recorded in transcripts



Handling of Plagiarism Cases in the Faculty

- Repeated (e.g. second time) offenders will be given at least two demerits (at least one will be a permanent record) and a fail grade for the whole course.



- Students who have received three demerits may be asked to suspend / discontinue studies

Role of Faculty Disciplinary Committee

- ❑ We are not the “Judge” or “Prosecutor”
- ❑ We aim to ensure that students appreciate the value of *academic integrity*
(one of the most valuable aspects of university education)

Important Websites

Faculty Guidelines

- https://www.erg.cuhk.edu.hk/erg/sites/default/files/Guidelines_to_Academic_Honesty.pdf



University Guidelines

- <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

