



AACPS Digital Citizenship

Lesson Title: Whose Is It, Anyway?

Grade 4

Time: 30 minutes

Overview: Students learn that, although the Internet makes it very easy, copying others' work and presenting it as one's own is unethical. They also learn about circumstances in which it is permissible to copy others' work.

Objectives:

- Define plagiarism and describe its consequences
- Explain how the Internet makes copying others' work easy
- Identify conditions that make copying acceptable

Materials:

Activity Sheets:

Whose is it, Anyway

Copying Not Allowed

AACPS Student Handbook:

Student Rights and Responsibilities- Technology Resource Use by Students.

Maryland Technology Literacy Standards for Students (MTLSS)

Standard 2.0–Digital Citizenship:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the history of technology, its implications on society and practice ethical, legal, and responsible use of technology to assure safety.

Activities:

- Have students each write a brief paragraph on the same subject. Collect the paragraphs and give each student someone else's work.
- Invite volunteers to read the paragraphs, pretending that it is their own work. Praise them for "their" work and say that you would like to publish "their" work in a parent newsletter or submit it to a writing contest.
- Invite both the true owner and the person pretending the work is theirs to comment on how the situation makes them feel.
- Distribute Activity Sheet, *Whose is it, anyway?*
- Have students work in pairs to complete the sheet. NOTE: Postpone discussion until students have read the information on Activity Sheet, *Copying Isn't Allowed*
- Distribute Activity Sheet, *Copying Isn't Allowed*
- Share with students your school's official policy on plagiarism and its consequences. *Refer to AACPS Student Handbook, Student's Rights and Responsibilities.*

NOTE: Copyright laws protect the ownership of authors' written works, photos, drawings, and other graphics by requiring that people who make copies do so only with permission of the owner. However, use of such works for schoolwork is considered "fair use" and does not require permission, only that credit be given.

- Have students revisit *Activity Sheet, Whose is it*, anyway and discuss changes or additions to their answers. Guide students to consider the following in their discussion:
 - **David's homework:** E-mail makes it easy for students to share their work. However, unless the teacher tells them to work together, s/he expects David's work to be his own. Even though Justin gave David permission to copy his work, it is still plagiarism.
 - **Manny's paragraph:** Copying someone's work from the Web in his own handwriting does not make it Manny's work. This is plagiarism.
 - **Samantha's work:** Using the exact words of someone else is plagiarism. even if you add your own topic sentence. Samantha should restate the passage in her own words.
 - **Marybeth and the drawing:** It is okay to print a drawing from a Web site for a school report as long as credit is given to the person who made it or the site from which it came.

Closure:

- **Ask:** *What is plagiarism?*
- **Ask:** *How does the Internet make copying others' work easy?*
- **Ask:** *When is copying others' work for a school report okay?*

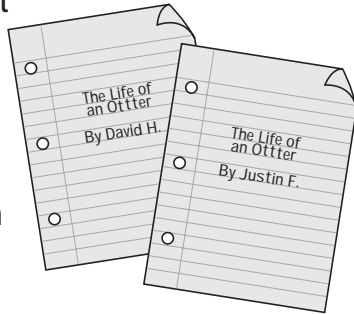
Extension:

Select a passage from a Web page. Ask students to read it, put it aside, and write the information in their own words. Then have them compare their version to the original passage. Discuss how they differ.

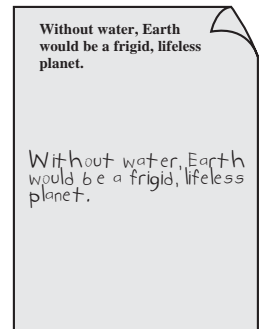
Name _____ Date _____

Whose is it, anyway?

David had basketball practice last night and didn't have time to do his homework. Justin offers to let him copy his and sends it to David in an E-mail. Is that okay? Explain.

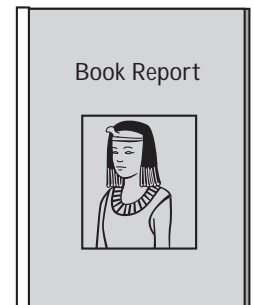


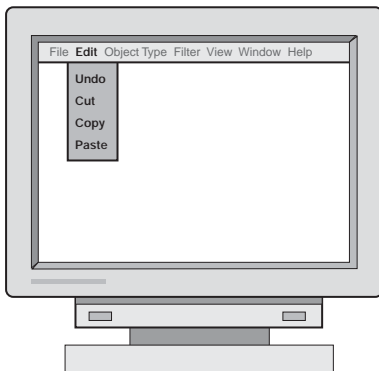
Manny has to write a paragraph about water resources for science. He finds a paragraph on a Web site that is just right. Manny copies it in his own handwriting. Is that okay? Explain.



Samantha copies a Web page into her word processor and adds her own first sentence. Is that okay? Explain.

Marybeth spends a lot of time searching the Web. She finds a great drawing on a site. She prints it for the cover of her social studies report. Is that okay? Explain.



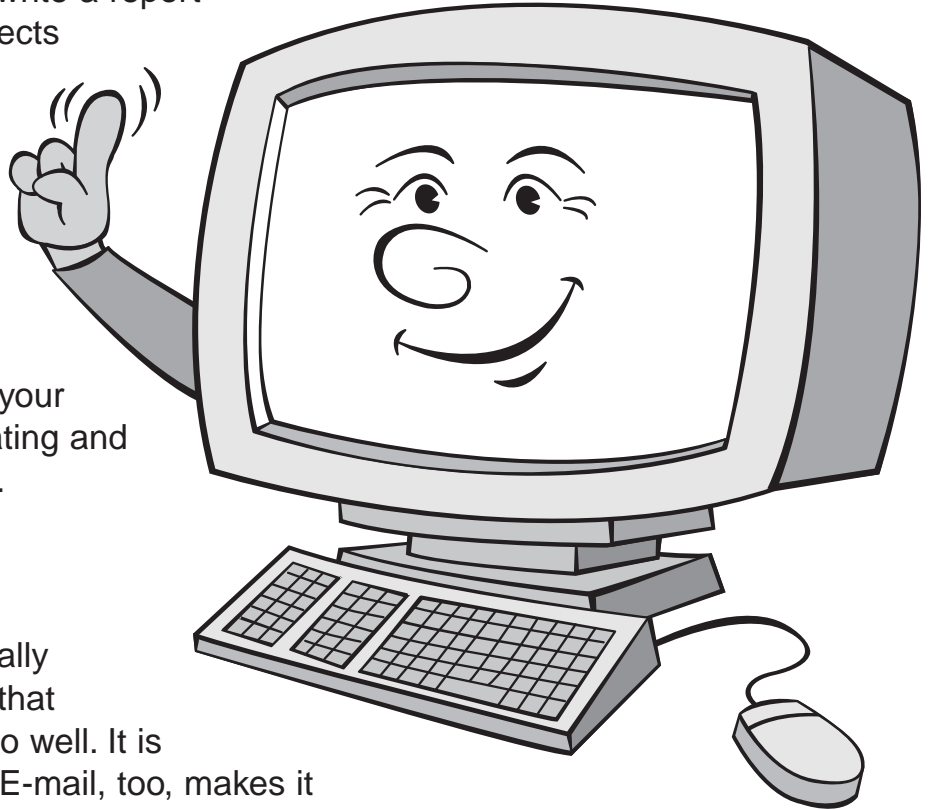


Name _____ Date _____

Copying Not Allowed!

If your teacher asks you to write a report in your own words, she expects you not to copy. Not from a Web page. Not from your best friend. Not even if you write it in your own handwriting or retype it yourself.

Taking others' exact words and pretending that they're your own is **plagiarism**. It's cheating and is against your school rules.



But, It's So Easy

It's hard not to copy. Especially when you find a Web page that tells what you want to say so well. It is so easy to copy and paste. E-mail, too, makes it easy for kids to copy each other's work. Instead, try reading the Web page, closing it, and writing the information in your own words.

When It Is Fair to Copy

It's okay to copy and paste someone else's words into your schoolwork if

- you use quotation marks around the words and
- you tell who wrote the words and where you found them.

It's okay to copy and paste photos, drawings, and graphs into a report if you tell who made it or where you found it.