

Referencing, Not Plagiarising

Activity 3: Is it Plagiarism?

Look at the following sources, then read the excerpt of a student report. Decide whether you think the student has

- Plagiarised
 - Used bad writing practice
 - Used the source in an acceptable way.
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Source 1. Book

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the Internet is rapidly becoming an important part of everyday life. Not only will it continue to shape our future for many years to come, but it is already formulating the ways in which we understand societal change, particularly the debates over modernity. Although mass public use of the Internet has taken place for less than a decade, its social, educational, organisational and commercial benefits are already being felt.

From David Wall '*Policing the Internet: maintaining order and law on the cyberbeat*' in Akdeniz, Walker and Wall (eds), '*The Internet, Law and Society*' (Longman, 2000), Chapter 7, page 155.

Student report using source 1.

Currently it is clear that the Internet is rapidly becoming important to everyone. It will carry on defining our future, but at the moment it is formulating how we comprehend societal change, particularly modernity. Even though mass public Internet use is a recent occurrence, its organisational, commercial, social and educational rewards are being felt.

Your answer:

Source 2. Journal Article

Over time technology has been instrumental in increasing industrial and agricultural production, improving transportation and communications, advancing human health care and overall improving many aspects of human life. However, much of its success is based on the availability of land, water, energy, and biological resources of the earth.

Taken from David PIMENTAL (1998) "Population Growth and the Environment:

Planetary Stewardship", *Electronic Green Journal*: Vol. 1: No. 9, Article 10.

Student report using source 2.

According to Pimental (1998), technology has greatly improved our standard of living. He cautions, however, that technological progress is dependent on natural resources.

Your answer:

Source 3. Book

Media experiences equal human experiences People's responses show that media are more than just tools. Media are treated politely, they can invade our body space, they can have personalities to match our own, they can be a teammate, and they can elicit gender stereotypes. Media can invoke emotional responses, demand attention, threaten us, influence memories, and change ideas of what is natural. Media are full participants in our social and natural world.

From: Reeves, B., & Nass, C. (1996). *The media equation: How people treat computers, television, and new media like real people and places*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.

Student report using source 3.

Reeves and Nass (1996) describe that people interact with media as if it were other people. They have shown in multiple ways that even when people know objectively that images of people on television screens are not real, or that computers are machines instead of human beings, we treat these things as if they were real -- were human. Media experiences equal human experiences.

Your answer:

Source 4. Website

Radiotherapy means the use of 'radiation', usually X-rays, to treat illness. X-rays were discovered in 1895 and since then radiation has been used in medicine for diagnosis and investigation (X-rays) and treatment (radiotherapy).

Doctors have a lot of experience using radiotherapy in medicine. About 4 out of 10 people with cancer (40%) have radiotherapy as part of their treatment. It can be given in various ways

- From outside the body as external radiotherapy, using X-rays, 'cobalt irradiation', electrons and more rarely other particles such as protons
- From within the body as internal radiotherapy, by drinking a liquid that is taken up by cancer cells or by putting radioactive material in, or close to, the tumour

Taken from <http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk/about-cancer/treatment/radiotherapy/about/what-radiotherapy-is>

Student report using source 4.

Radiotherapy was discovered in 1895 and since then had been used in various applications in medicine, including x-rays and cancer therapy with radiotherapy. According to statistics provided by Cancerhelp.org, around 4 in 10 cancer patients will be treated by radiotherapy 1.

1 <http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk/about-cancer/treatment/radiotherapy/about/what-radiotherapy-is>

Your answer:

Source 5. Book

How the atmosphere affects the oceans and vice versa is the next step in understanding climate change. Because of the much greater heat capacity of the oceans, how heat is taken up, stored and released by them is bound to have a bigger impact on longer term climate change. Large-scale temperature anomalies can last much longer than the more fleeting change in snow cover and pack ice. For this reason, the processes, which control the surface temperature of the oceans, hold the key to many aspects of climate variability and climate change in timescales from a few years to centuries.

From *Climate Change: a multidisciplinary approach*, 2nd Edition by William James Burroughs. Published 2007.

Student report using source 5.

In his book, *Climate Change: a multidisciplinary approach*, William Burroughs states that understanding climate change depends on how the atmosphere affects the oceans and vice versa. As oceans are big, they have a much greater heat capacity and the effect of how this heat is taken up, stored and released may have a bigger impact on longer term climate change. For this reason, the processes, which control ocean temperature, hold the key to climate change in timescales.

Your answer:

Source 6. Quotations

"A linguistic culture (otherwise known as a discourse community) is not necessarily coincidental with nation, or even language, and is indeed a flexible construct, based at one moment on geography, at another on class, at another on gender, or on age, educational level, race or a particular interest or belief'. (Gieve 1998: 4)

"Language simultaneously reflects culture, and is influenced and shaped by it. In the broadest sense, it is also the symbolic representation of a people, since it comprises their historical and cultural backgrounds, as well as their approach to life and their ways of living and thinking." (Jiang 2000: 38)

"The referents of language are the entities, events, states, processes, characteristics, and relations that exist in the culture, whether these are referred to by single words or phrases. Between language and culture there is always an interactive influence: the two cannot exist without each other." (Jiang 2000: 329)

From

Gieve, S (1998) Learning the Culture of Language: Intellectural Communication and Second and Foreign Language Learning. *IATEFL Literature and Cultural Studies SIG Newsletter* 18: 4-7 Jiang, W (2000) Relationship Between Culture and Language. *ELT Journal* 54/4: 328-334

Student report using source 5.

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Your answer: