Andrea Lunsford Videos

Plagiarism in the Remix Culture

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["Mark Herrera, Sustainability Major" onscreen] HERRERAR: You've got to give credit where it's due, and I think that you can't just steal people's ideas.

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[ONSCREEN] Plagiarism in the Remix Culture

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LUNSFORD: We do live in a remix culture.

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["Andrea A. Lunsford, Stanford University" onscreen] LUNSFORD: There's a war going on out there about who's going to have control over this cultural material. Do you want to be a victim of this war, or do you want to get in there and be one of the protagonists or antagonists in this? So I want you to think really carefully about how you are using the work of others. And if you want to pull a clip from a song and you want to mix it in with something you are writing, I want you to think about all of the ethical implications, and I want you to be ready to stand up and say "I'm taking responsibility for this, and I think I should be allowed to do this and here's why." If you can't do that, you'd better not.

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["Eder Diego, Communication Design Major" onscreen] DIEGO: In the future, I think I could see the paper as being a multimedia thing. When you turn in something, if the professor asks you to do something more than just the paper, you can have your paper and then have some kind of link to a video you might do on that topic. Maybe even a picture you've taken. It would be easy to just click -- click of the mouse.

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[Lunsford onscreen] Lunsford: Following this group of Stanford students for five years, I found that many of them really feel strongly that what is on the Web is free for anybody's use. It is fair game, it is open source, it is absolutely there to be used, like boilerplate. And they do not see anything wrong with cutting and pasting and picking and choosing. Now -- and that's really interesting to me. I do think that standards of what constitute a usable text are going to have to change.

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["Nathan Younie, Engineering Major" onscreen] YOUNIE: Well, with the internet now you can cut and paste, copy things right out of books. That's not real hard to do. It's getting easier to get caught at the same time.

02:05

["Ismah Jawed, Biology Major" onscreen] JAWED: Sometimes, I guess -- I mean, by now we should assume that that's wrong, but some people say, oh, if the professor hasn't said that plagiarism is wrong or they don't define it, then they're just not aware of it.

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["Shaundel Sanchez, Anthropology Major" onscreen] SANCHEZ: That's cheating. When you have to say, this is where I got this source from, this is their idea, and this is why it's also my idea.

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["Kristy Seele, Nursing Major" onscreen] SEELE: If I say that in this study this was the result, I can't say that I said that. I didn't do the study. I don't really know that. You cite it to who said that. And that's very important in any kind of writing, to say give credit to who it was given to. A lot of times we'll paraphrase different things because paraphrasing just helps you understand the material. If you're copying word for word from a book, then you may not really understand what you're reading, and being able to paraphrase and put it in your own words really does help the learning process.

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[Lunsford onscreen] Lunsford: If you go to 20 universities and look at their definitions of plagiarism, you will see that they are plagiarized, that they all are the same. They're all taken from some err source on plagiarism somewhere. And I think students know that they really shouldn't take a whole passage off the internet and just plunk it into their papers. But they can't actually sometimes articulate why, what's wrong with that.

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[Sanchez onscreen] Sanchez: I think that plagiarism or even unintentional plagiarism does come from this remix culture that we have going on.

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[Lunsford onscreen] Lunsford: So I think we have to really start at the very beginning with this: why we have these standards of citation and proof in the academy, what they're for, what they say about your credibility as a writer, what they say about your having done your homework, what they say about you in relationship to the ownership of other people's texts. We have to start right at the beginning.