

MY THOUGHTS OF PLAGIARISM

(name withheld)

I wrote a report surfing Internet and researching hard and I wrote a paper, but it was plagiarism. I didn't know why my report was plagiarism, so a teacher told me why plagiarism has become a problem at Japanese universities. I realized that finding the answer makes me know plagiarism well. The teacher showed me three articles. Every one of them is very very difficult for me. The articles include abstract words and sentences. But I have to summarize in my own words. I tried but I borrowed some words in articles. To borrow some words in articles may be plagiarism... But I don't have an ability to create a summary only in my own words. If to borrow some words in the articles is plagiarism, please forgive me. Then I have to know the plagiarism more.

“Student plagiarism” has either aspect “as morally wrong or as a crime.” When students try to do the right thing, they will plagiarize. It is considered as morally wrong. Students know “the notion of academic integrity”, but they also try to be good friends with their friends so they finally “plagiarize or accept their classmates’ infractions.”

Considering plagiarism as a crime, it is important to “emphasize law and enforcement.” Some students regard school rules as meaninglessness so they don't think plagiarism illegal. Now the society cannot help do without computers. Many young people are “growing in the Internet age,” so they commit a crime without awareness. They don't understand what is copyright, they don't know what is illegal. Online they think “everything can belong to them really easily.”

There are the reasons why teachers cannot prevent students from plagiarism. First, “students have only a vague sense of what is meant by moral quality termed ‘academic integrity’.” Teachers don't tell students what is academic integrity and what to do is illegal clearly. Second, unique thing is now out of date. Students today are sharing information and products freely on the Internet. It's not cool for them to withdraw into their own world. Students don't stick to their own writing and they also see the writings that others wrote as their common information. Finally, students try to enter “highly institutions.” They need high quality of learning, so it

is usual to cite academic reports in order to produce high quality work. Students also imitate their professors' work in order to do so.

It is important to teach students academic integrity and how to write their own paper with citation. If this is not carried out, the number of the students who are not interested in creating own work or original one will increase. Professors should give students the nuances of citation.

I think these articles say plagiarism cannot be clearly defined. So it is natural that students write a plagiarism report without evil mind. I agree increasing plagiarism results from this society. We can use the Internet freely and we can see information that others wrote freely and we can copy the web page freely. These systems make us do something illegal while they do not notice they are doing illegal things. According to the articles, it is important to teach students how to write a paper and the nuances of citation. I agree with this. Teachers should play a part in teaching.

It is allowed to quote the words from writing to prove their own report is right. But this needs to write quotation marks or where they cite those words. I forgot to write these signs, so my teacher may have thought my report was plagiarism. I should have written the Web site name where I researched the history of American clothes and cited the sentences. I think it is difficult to understand plagiarism and what is citation for the students who have not written a report and who do not know the rules of writing. But I think it may be good to make a mistake, like me. I think making mistakes makes people grow up and makes people know the social system. I am not perfect while I am alive. So I appreciate that you make me write this paper. I understood what I did is plagiarism and I could know the university is serious to this problem. The reason why plagiarism has become a problem at Japanese universities, I think, is to make students prepare before they get out into the world. If professors over looked the plagiarism, students could not know what they did was plagiarism or crime. Then students would be in a problem when they get a job and work at a company. The real world is strict and people are arrested if they commit only a little crime. Students in universities should know rules. Of course, it is bad for students in universities to do illegal things too. If students in universities were allowed to use drugs, the world would break down. Using drugs are never allowed even they use drugs only one time. But we are taught that drugs are very bad and never use drugs. So I understand drugs are so bad and people are arrested

if they try drugs. I think it is good to make us know plagiarism taking enough time. Like me there may be some students who write illegal paper without awareness. I think teachers are responsible for teaching what students don't know.

I may talk too big. It was the worst that I did not know the rules of writing. I should have known plagiarism and what is not plagiarism. I was so sorry to know my report was plagiarism and I would miss the degrees of all subjects in fast semester. I did not expect like that. But thanks to your kindness, I may be forgiven. I really appreciate you. Thank you very much. I could know the plagiarism as well. The grammar in this paper may not be correct and you may not understand the words well. But these are my words. This is clear.