

Class Task and discussion

Why do some people plagiarise?

Scenario One:

Sam is a first year student. He is having difficulty organising himself and suddenly finds that several pieces of coursework are due. Time is not on his side so he asks a close friend if he can look over his work so that he has some ideas. When the work is marked the tutor found these two pieces of work very similar and called them both in. They were both given an official warning.

- (a) Poor writing skills
- (b) Poor time management skills
- (c) Poor note-taking skills

Scenario Two:

Sally has been reading for her assignment for a few weeks and put a lot of work in. The work is due on Monday and it is now Friday. She has taken lots of notes and now wants to start writing, but she realises she has a lot of information, but no references as to where she got it from. She has a vague ideas of what the references are and decides to take guess at the references; she is sure the marker won't notice.

- (a) Poor writing skills
- (b) Poor time management skills
- (c) Poor note-taking skills

Scenario Three:

Jamal feels that he doesn't write very well and whenever he reads anything he feels he can't put it better himself so tends to take chunks of information from books or a good website. The more he reads, the more inadequate he feels his writing ability is. This next coursework is an essay and he has decided to put in bits of text he has found on the web without putting in quotes or making an in-text reference.

- (a) Poor writing skills
- (b) Poor time management skills
- (c) Poor note-taking skills

In all of the scenarios above, there was no malicious attempt to cheat, but it has resulted from the various pressures and lack of skill that you can easily find yourself in.