“The Plague of Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty”

Plagiarism began before the internet was invented. In the past students would find means of cheating through advertisements in college newspapers, posts on university bulletin boards, or fellow sorority or fraternity members. With the advent of the internet, however, plagiarism is much simpler and quicker. There are an unbelievable number of sites where students can buy papers either custom ordered or generically produced. Students can even request specifics like a precise topic or the number of pages or sources needed. Some websites even advertise that professors will be the ones writing the paper. Teachers and professors can use various services to prevent plagiarism, such as turnitin.com. Additionally, plagiarism can be prevented by checking each step of the research process along the way, from the sources to the outline to the finished draft. Teachers and professors can also be suspicious if a submitted paper is written very well by a student who does not communicate intelligently in class.

Fact #1 – Elizabeth Paige Laurie, who inherited great wealth from the Walmart dynasty, paid her roommate $20,000 to write three papers and do assorted homework for her. She lost her B.A. in Communications in 2005 after the roommate, Elena Martinez, told 20/20 about this.

Fact #2 – The cost of buying a five-page research paper is about $300. This includes being sent by overnight mail.

Fact #3 – Donald McCabe from the Center for Academic Dishonesty at Duke University conducted a survey on cheating. In 1999, the number of students who admitted to cheating via the internet was 10 percent. By 2001, the number went up to 41 percent.