Copy & Paste Plagiarism

Description:
- The word for word taking of a phrase, sentence, paragraph(s), or entire source without using quotation marks AND without citing it appropriately.
- The most prevalent form of plagiarism among high school students.
- The Internet has made copy & pasting extremely tempting for students.

Example of Copy & Paste Plagiarism:

Original Source:

But unlike other animals, human adaptation to the desert environment has not always been in balance with the surroundings. For instance, the introduction of domesticated animals is upsetting the natural balance. Farmers have brought goats to the Namib. Goats often rip out indigenous grasses and plants, vegetation that stores precious liquid in a water-stressed terrain. This depletion is causing the Namib Desert to spread.

Note-taking Hints:
- Decide what information you need from the source.
- Write this information on your notecard(s) in your own words. Except for double checking facts or statistics, record the information on your notecards without looking at your source.
- When writing, summarize the information from your cards in your own words, without looking at your original source.
Humans do not always interact with harsh environments positively. The Namib Desert in Africa is growing because humans have introduced domesticated goats, whose grazing habits destroy plants and grasses that contain water.

Look at the following source information and rewrite it so that it is not Copy & Paste Plagiarism.


The issue of dress codes has been a point of contention between students and schools for decades. During the 1960s, students began protesting the schools’ attempts to regulate clothing and hairstyles. For a while, the students got the upper hand, and the rules were greatly relaxed by school districts. Recently, however, the trend has been in the other direction as schools act to counter violence and gangs. In fact, these rules have come so far that many schools now require uniforms.

Using the source above, write an example of Copy & Paste Plagiarism.

Read through the source at least two times. Write down the important information from the above source in your own words, without looking back at the source.
Using your notes (yellow box) write the information in paragraph form so that you are not guilty of Copy & Paste Plagiarism.

Note: Teachers wanting hard copies of this activity should use legal sized paper.
Created by: Margaret Christle, NHS Library 2008.
Many thanks to Dr. Cecilia Barnbaum of Valdosta State University for permission to use her instructional template from "Plagiarism: A Student's Guide to Recognizing It and Avoiding It."