

AVOIDING
ACADEMIC TRAPS

A Plagiarism Game

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and passing them off as your own

Taking credit for work you didn't do

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Heavy consequences in terms of academic punishments and loss of respect from faculty & peers

How to avoid this humiliation?

Just **PROPERLY CITE
THE SOURCE**

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THE SOURCE**

Or else,

SNAP!

There goes your grade
and academic
reputation.

LET'S PLAY

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Make sure you have a copy of the score sheet to record your answers

1. Three students want to use a bit of this passage from page 4 of *Steve Jobs*, a biography by Walter Isaacson.

Steve Jobs knew from an early age that he was adopted. "My parents were very open with me about that," he recalled. He had a vivid memory of sitting on the lawn of his house, when he was six or seven years old, telling the girl who lived across the street. "So does that mean your real parents didn't want you?" the girl asked. "Lightning bolts went off in my head," according to Jobs. "I remember running into the house, crying. And my parents said, 'No, you have to understand.' They were very serious and looked me straight in the eye. They said, 'We specifically picked you out.' Both of my parents said that and repeated it slowly for me. And they put an emphasis on every word in that sentence."

Abandoned. Chosen. Special. Those concepts became part of who Jobs was and how he regarded himself. His closest friends think that the knowledge that he was given up at birth left some scars. "I think his desire for complete control of whatever he makes derives directly from his personality and the fact that he was abandoned at birth," said one longtime colleague, Del Yocam. "He wants to control his environment,

Which student or students committed plagiarism?

Amy

Jobs' knowledge that he was given up at birth left some scars, his friends agreed.

Becky

Isaacson reports that several people close to Steve Jobs believe that the fact that "he was given up at birth left some scars" (4).

Carla

Del Yocam, a man who worked for many years with Steve Jobs, believes that part of Jobs' need to control all facets of his work was connected to the fact that he was adopted (Isaacson 4).

Which student or students committed plagiarism?

Amy

Jobs was adopted, which means that he was given up at birth. In fact, his father had scars, his father had scars.



Becky

Isaacson reports that several people close to Steve Jobs believe that the fact that "he was given up at birth left some scars" (4).

Carla

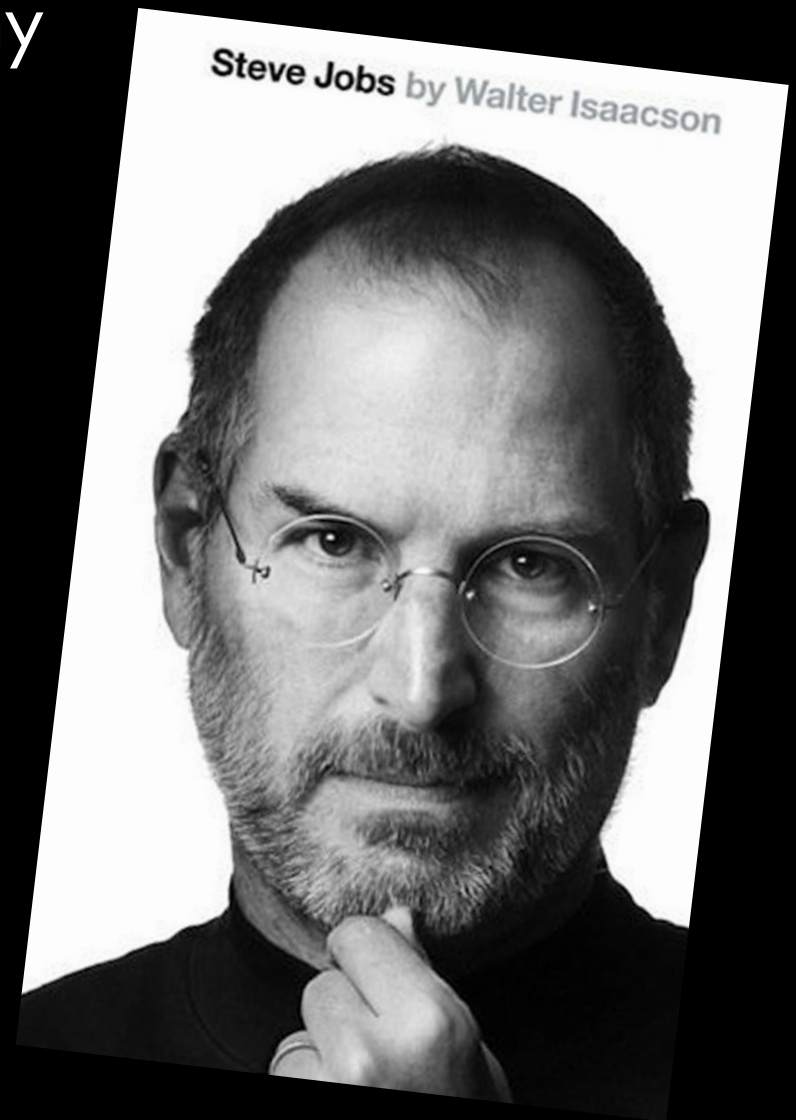
Del Yocam, a man who worked for many years with Steve Jobs, believes that part of Jobs' need to control all facets of his work was connected to the fact that he was adopted (Isaacson 4).

Why?

Amy's sentence: The knowledge that he was given up at birth left some scars, his friends agreed.

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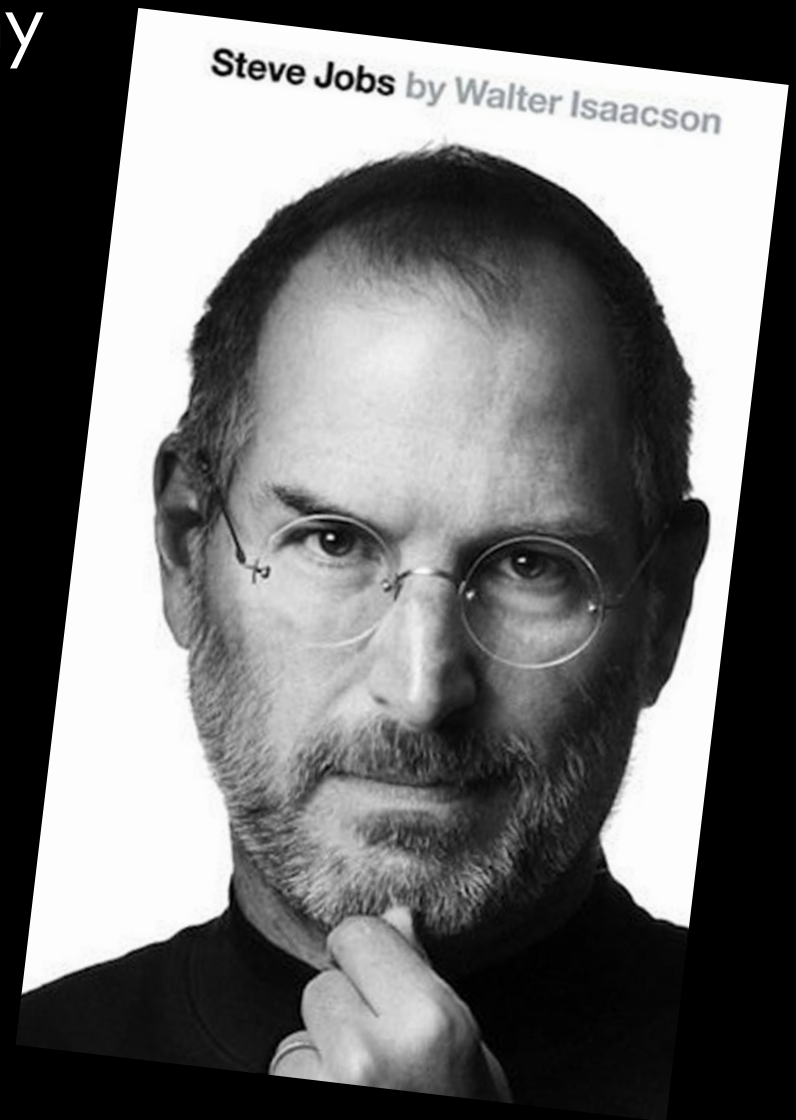
No source listed for where Amy found this information. Even if she personally interviewed a bunch of Jobs' friends, she still needs to include that information in the passage.



Why? Amy's sentence: The knowledge that he was given up at birth left some scars, his friends agreed.

No source listed for where Amy found this information. Even if she personally interviewed a bunch of Jobs' friends, she still needs to include that information in the passage.

In this format, she's stolen from Isaacson and has just harmed her academic reputation.



2. Three students want to use a bit of this passage by Susan Logan-McCracken on page 39 of *Catster Magazine*.

YOU
GOTTA BE

KITTEN



ME



LISTEN UP!
DON'T THINK
THAT THEY'RE
"SO CUTE" IS ALL
YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT
THESE TINY
FURBALLS.

SUSAN LOGAN-
MCCRACKEN

They make us smile and laugh. They make us say, "Awww!" But these babies have distinct needs and attributes. We'll guide you through 22 of them.

1 They're fragile. Newborn kittens are completely helpless and totally dependent on their mothers for nourishment, warmth, and elimination. If they're orphaned, they need 24/7 care from a kind human. (If you find an orphaned kitten less than 5 weeks old, feed a kitten milk replacement formula.) They need to stay warm and eat every couple of hours around the clock.

They even need help pottyng. From birth to about 5 weeks old, kittens rely on their mothers to stimulate their genitalia so they can urinate and defecate. A foster parent can help with that by taking a warm, wet cotton ball and gently rubbing the kitten's genitalia. Without this help, they could die.

2 They're impressionable. During kittens' first 12 weeks, they learn who's safe and trustworthy, what's good to eat, and where the bathroom is. To become socialized and friendly toward people, this is the time for loving human hands to hold them, pet them, feed them, and, once they start playing, have fun with them.

3 They need their feline family. For about the first 12 weeks, kittens also become socialized toward other cats. They learn appropriate respect toward adult cats from their mothers and how to get along with their peers from their littermates. They learn things like where they stand in a hierarchy, to respect other cats' territory, and how to fight fair.



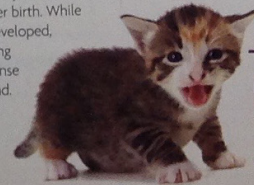
4 They're born with blue eyes. Their eyes open with a bluish hue at about 2 weeks of age, and some breeds — like Siamese, Tonkinese, and Ragdoll — keep their blue eye color. You might see a range of colors during a kitten's first year before her eyes change into their permanent color.

5 Their sense of smell is far superior to ours. Cats are equipped with an extra organ involved in their sense of smell. Located at the roof of their mouths, the vomeronasal organ enables cats to heighten the power of their sense of smell. By 4 weeks of age, this organ is fully developed. Kittens rely on their smelling

acuity to find Mom because their sense of sight and hearing are not yet fully developed.

6 Their sense of hearing is one of the best on the planet. Except for bats and moths, cats have the best hearing of all land animals. They are born deaf, but when their amazing sense of hearing is fully developed by 4 weeks of age, they can hear 65,000 cycles per second (or hertz), whereas we can only hear 20,000.

7 They see things differently. Kittens are born blind and don't even open their eyes for their first week or two after birth. While their eyesight is undeveloped, they are adept at using their whiskers and sense of smell to get around. Fully developed by 5 weeks of age, their eyesight is different from ours. As noc-



turnal hunters, cats are designed to distinguish movement and perceive depth better than we can and see in light six times dimmer than we can. Yet they lack the ability to see the full spectrum of colors we see.

8 They need a growth diet. Once the weaning process begins at about 5 weeks of age, kittens can eat wet or dry food. They might need to transition during this time with a mix of kitten formula and solid food. Cats are obligate carnivores, meaning they get their nutrients from meat. Choose a kitten food that is a growth formula for about the first year.

9 They're kneady. Kittens knead when they nurse to stimulate milk flow, but they still knead into adulthood. When a cat kneads you, she's seeking comfort and chose you as a mother figure to provide it.

10 They're not finicky — yet. This is the time to give them a variety of kitten foods so they don't become picky eaters. If you ever have to switch their diets for health reasons, you want them to have an adaptable palate.

11 They're easy to potty train. Just plop them into a litter box, and they're trained. It's instinctual for cats to bury their waste in sand-like substrate. Many kittens will learn to use the litter box just by watching their mothers use it.

12 They need a clean bathroom. Clean the litter box at least once a day. If your kitten

Zoom in:



4 **eyes.** Their eyes open with a bluish hue at about 2 weeks of age, and some breeds — like Siamese, Tonkinese, and Ragdoll — keep their blue eye color. You might see a range of colors during a kitten's first year before her eyes change into their permanent color.

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Which student or students committed plagiarism?

Daniel

A kitten's ability to hear is fully developed by the time the animal is four weeks old (Logan-McCracken 39).

Eddie

A typical cat's hearing is more than three times better than the average human's hearing, scientists report.

Franklin

Cats are incredibly focused animals; aside from moths and bats, a cat's hearing is said to be the best among all other animals on the planet.

Which student or students committed plagiarism?

Daniel

A kitten's ability to hear is fully developed by the time the animal is four weeks old (Logan-McCracken 39).

Eddie

A typical cat's hearing is more than 16 times better than the average human. (Logan-McCracken 39)



Franklin

Cats are incredibly intelligent animals; aside from moths and bats, a cat's hearing is said to be the best among all other animals on the planet.



Why?

Why?

Both Eddie and Franklin took information without giving credit to the source.

Eddie:

A typical cat's hearing is more than three times better than the average human's hearing, scientists report.

Franklin:

Cats are incredibly focused animals; aside from moths and bats, a cat's hearing is said to be the best among all other animals on the planet.

Both could be fixed with a simple attributive tag:

(Logan-McCracken 39)

3. Gina was assigned an essay on the Great Depression. Last year, she had a similar assignment in a different class. She takes her old essay, updates the introductory paragraph and changes a few body paragraph sentences before turning it in to this year's teacher.

Did Gina commit plagiarism?

YES NO

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Did Gina commit plagiarism?

YES



NO

You can give yourself permission to use your own previous work, but plagiarism isn't just about copying someone else's ideas. It's about **claiming to do work that you haven't done.**

By recycling your old essay and presenting it as fresh work, you just **plagiarized yourself.**

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By recycling your old essay and presenting it as fresh work, you just **plagiarized yourself.**

This is sometimes called "**academic double-dipping**" and can bring a world of trouble.

If you want to repurpose old work, check with your teacher ahead of time for **permission.**

4. These lines were taken from students' papers.
Which of them contains plagiarized content?

Helen

U.S. President Barack Obama served two terms, holding office from 2009 to 2016.

Iris

U.S. President Ronald Reagan worked many years as a Hollywood actor before entering politics.

Julia

U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt held the office from 1933 to 1945, helping to pull Americans out of the Great Depression.

Trick Question!

NONE of these are plagiarized because each student's sentence is a generally accepted fact.

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NONE of these are plagiarized because each student's sentence is a generally accepted fact.

Things that are **common knowledge** don't need to be attributed to a source.

If you saw the same fact repeated in most of your sources, and if your reader is likely to already know this fact, it is probably **common knowledge**.

Basically, if most adults you know already know this information, you probably don't need an attributive tag. When in doubt, check with your teacher.

5. Three students want to use some of this information about self-driving trucks found on *The New York Times* website.



Otto, a start-up led by former Google engineers, is betting that automating long-haul trucks rather than passenger vehicles could be more palatable financially and to regulators. By OTTO on May 17, 2016.

SAN FRANCISCO — Imagine you are driving on a highway late at night when a big-rig truck closes in behind you. You relax because it is at a safe distance and seems to be obeying the speed limit. Now imagine

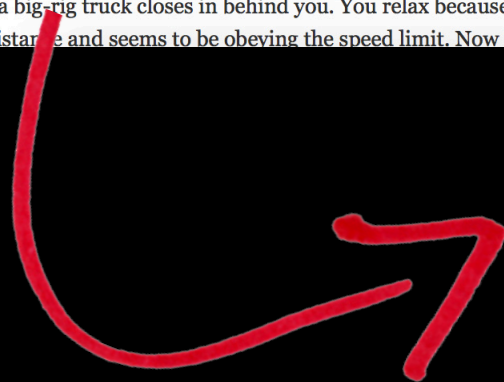
Adding self-driving technology — at least as it stands now — into regular passenger cars could make them absurdly expensive for anyone without the cash of a Silicon Valley mogul. Until recently, the laser sensor used on the Google car project cost \$75,000.

Those costs are coming down, but it will be some time before they have a realistic price for consumers. But a new, big tractor-trailer truck can easily cost more than \$150,000, so the added cost of robotic features could make more sense.

In addition, it could make trucking more efficient, allowing, for example, a human driver to rest in the sleeper cabin while the truck takes the wheel.

Still, automating commercial driving is controversial and — potentially — a job killer.

There are more than three million truck drivers in the United States, according to the American Trucking Associations, and about one in every 15 workers in the country is employed in the trucking business.



Which student or students committed plagiarism?

Kyle

Automating commercial driving is controversial and – potentially – a job-killer (Markoff).

Lawrence

Automating commercial trucking is highly controversial and will potentially kill off many jobs (Markoff).

Matthew

The proposal to allow long-haul trucks to be driven by a computer instead of a human is controversial, both in terms of public safety and significant job loss (Markoff).

Which student or students committed plagiarism?

Kyle

Autonomous commercial driving and - r - a job-killing



Lawrence

Autonomous commercial trucking controversy will potentially cost many jobs (Markoff).



Matthew

The proposal to allow long-haul trucks to be driven by a computer instead of a human is controversial, both in terms of public safety and significant job loss (Markoff).

Why?

Why?

Both Kyle and Lawrence misused the attributive tag. Both of them took actual words from Markoff's article without properly using quote marks to note Markoff's original words.

Kyle:

Automating commercial driving is controversial and – potentially – a job-killer (Markoff).

Lawrence:

Automating commercial **trucking** is **highly** controversial and **will** potentially **kill off** **many jobs** (Markoff).

Why?

Both Kyle and Lawrence misused the attributive tag. Both of them took actual words from Markoff's article without properly using quote marks to note Markoff's original words.

Kyle:

Automating commercial driving is controversial and – potentially – a job-killer (Markoff).

He just copied and pasted without using quotes.

Lawrence:

Automating commercial **trucking** is **highly** controversial and **will** potentially **kill off many jobs** (Markoff).

He sneakily tried to switch a few words, but the essence of the work still belongs to Markoff.

Only Matthew's sentence is an original piece of writing.