Lesson Plan
This lesson plan is designed to help you teach using a Common Craft video. Use the information below to introduce the video and then follow the video with discussion questions and other resources.

Plagiarism
Explained by Common Craft
While Plagiarism can be intentional, it is more often caused by misunderstanding. Avoiding it means understanding the role of intellectual property and what makes plagiarism wrong.

commoncraft.com/video/plagiarism

ISTE Standard:
Digital Citizen, Indicator 2c

ACRL Info Literacy Frame:
Information has Value

Learning Outcomes
• Define the term plagiarism
• Identify types of materials that require attribution
• Explain the value of giving credit to others when using their ideas or materials
• Explain steps to take to avoid plagiarism when writing a paper
• Describe what types of information would or would not fall under common knowledge

Discussion Questions
Q #1
How might plagiarism happen accidentally?

Q #2
What are the potential consequences of plagiarism?

Knowledge Check Q&A
Q
A student quotes an author directly but does not use quotation marks or mention the author’s name. Is this an example of plagiarism?

A
Yes.

Q
A student paraphrases an author’s idea and references the original source. Is this an example of plagiarism?

A
No.
Q
True or False. Every idea requires a source.

A
False. Common knowledge doesn’t require a source.

Resources for Learning More

Plagiarism.org
“What is Plagiarism?”
http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/
what-is-plagiarism/

Indiana University Bloomington
“Plagiarism: What it is and how to recognize and avoid it”
http://wts.indiana.edu/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml

Purdue Owl
“Paraphrase: Write it in your own words.”
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/1/

MIT
“Academic Integrity at MIT”
https://integrity.mit.edu/handbook/citing-your-sources/what-common-knowledge

New York Times
Trip Gabriel
“Plagiarism lines blur for students in the digital age” 8/1/2010
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/02/education/02cheat.html

New York Times Education Blog
Lionel Anderson and Katherine Schulten
“Understanding Plagiarism in the Digital Age” 10/29/2015