

Book Reviews

HARRIS, Robert A. (2001). *The Plagiarism Handbook: Strategies for Preventing, Detecting, and Dealing With Plagiarism*. Los Angeles: Pyczak Publishing. 208pp., \$19.95. Reviewed by Peggy Pittman-Munke, BA, MLS, M.Ed., MSW, PhD Murray State University

In his first book, Harris explains that plagiarism is a complex issue involving many factors ranging from “changes in ethical values” to “poorly designed assignments” and “perceived lack of consequences. He provides activities to educate both students and educators about plagiarism in order to eliminate plagiarism. The appendices are especially useful, containing definitions of plagiarism, language for constructing policies, tests and other activities to use with students, teaching resources, Internet search material, term paper mills [this section probably needs to be updated since many more have sprung up], and other useful Web links, and other reference materials.

I found the chapter on dealing with plagiarism especially helpful, since it covers many possible scenarios and provides clear strategies for dealing with the situation, as well as a reminder about the potential legal issues. The format of the book is particularly pleasing. It is easy to use and poses issues in language that is clear enough that even the least sophisticated student can understand the issues. Even more helpful are the strategies to help students avoid both intentional and unintentional plagiarism.

Chapters include educating yourself about plagiarism, educating your students about plagiarism, constructing assignments to prevent plagiarism, strategies for detecting plagiarism, strategies for dealing with plagiarism, and administrative and institutional issues relating to plagiarism. Appendices include sample definitions of plagiarism and policy language, quizzes and activities, teaching resources, Internet search tools, term paper mills, useful Web links and articles, and teaching ideas through cartoons. This is a relatively inexpensive book that is well worth its price.