

CLUES PAPERS MAY BE PLAGIARIZED

1. Serious discrepancies in the levels of word choice, sentence structure, and grammar.
2. Differences in fonts.
3. Changes in the level of formality of the paper from formal to slangy and back again.
4. Inconsistencies in formatting and bibliography.
5. Failure to address the question directly: students will try to shoe-horn the paper they have bought or downloaded into the topic they have been given.
6. A huge disparity in the writing level between in-class writing and papers done at home.
7. An inarticulate student using very sophisticated and/or technical language in a paper. You can ask them to define some of the words for you on the spot if you suspect they have just downloaded the paper.
8. A student asks when the major paper is due and when you say “Friday,” they turn pale with horror and immediately ask for an extension.
9. The student uses sources that you are not able to find, out-dated sources, or inappropriate ones, such as their high school History book, quotes you cannot identify, or untraceable sources from another country.
10. A bibliography that has no relationship to the paper you are reading, or no bibliography at all.

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