

Professional Integrity

Plagiarism is taking even one sentence or sentence fragment from another document, including from a Web site, and using it word-for-word or nearly word-for-word without citing the source. Plagiarism is theft. It is unethical and evil.

The following is from the Chicago Tribune Web site:

NEW YORK – Confused by tougher enforcement procedures, an increasing number of foreign journalists traveling from Europe and Australia have been detained and refused entry at U.S. airports in recent months, provoking concern and consternation here and abroad.

Though the numbers have been small – about 30 – international journalist groups say the incidents raise questions about whether the Bush administration's war on terrorism could be used to limit foreign media access to the world's superpower and, in retaliation, the U.S. media's access to foreign countries.

"It would be absolutely of no surprise if countries began to apply a reciprocal approach to the U.S. on their treatment of journalists," said Chris Warren, president of the International Federation of Journalists. "That would be terribly unfortunate, because people still look to the United States for examples of democratic practice."

If a reporter for another news outlet wrote:

An increasing number of foreign journalists have been detained and refused entry at U.S. airports in recent months.

"It would be absolutely of no surprise if countries began to apply a reciprocal approach to the U.S. on their treatment of journalists," said Chris Warren, president of the International Federation of Journalists.

That reporter has committed plagiarism. The reporter is also lying to readers because s/he is implying that s/he spoke to Warren.

Making up quotes or, worst yet, sources, is a greater breech of journalism ethics.

These acts damage the credibility of reporters and their publications or news stations. Reporters are fired if they are found to have committed plagiarism, taken quotes from another source or fabricated information. These dismissals quite often are made public, which means the reporter will have little chance of finding another job.

Daily Titan reporters also face severe consequences if they are found to have committed plagiarism or fabricated information.

Reporters who commit plagiarism, deceit or deception will be fired from the paper, which means they will receive an F for the semester. They will also be reported to the vice president of student services, who might take further disciplinary action.

I have read and understand the policy on plagiarism and fabrication for Comm 471.

Signature

Date

Print name