

# Is it all just a misunderstanding?

International Students and Plagiarism

**Brandy Rivera**  
*International Student Services  
Coordinator*  
University of West Georgia

# The Concept of Plagiarism

- International Students are disproportionately represented in plagiarism cases.
- Students may not understand the Western ideals of plagiarism
- Most plagiarism from international students is unintentional
- Most of the cases can be avoided with some clarification

# Cultural Misunderstandings

- “Juwah, Lal and Belouci (2008 ), in a plagiarism project report, noted that Confucian based societies in Asia view individual analysis of a work as egoistic and impolite. They also state that some African and Arabian cultures teach largely through memorization. In those cultures, exact quotations are a sign of respect to teachers. Consequently, students from these countries may not be aware of our cultural idea of ownership and plagiarism and could easily plagiarize in their own works.”

~Academic Advising Today

# 2 Way Street

- Avoidance starts with both the student and the faculty members!
- Students need to first understand the seriousness of the offense
- Faculty members should be as clear as possible about expectations on assignments

# Student Resources

- Online plagiarism module for students to take
  - Mandatory in 1101 classes
- Workshops with Academic Integrity offices
- Quick overview at the concept at Orientation
  - Just a brief introduction
- Email out resources
- Website resources

# Faculty Resources

- Suggestions for syllabus
- Provide them with access to modules about plagiarism
  - International Student friendly
- Roundtable discussions with international students
- Knowing where to direct the student
  - Collaborators in Academic Integrity offices