



Case 2: Unintended Support by Way of Plagiarism

A senate committee has published a report in support of a controversial public health education policy. Upon publication, two individuals came forward indicating that documents they had previously written had been plagiarized in the writing of the report. One document is a student's recently published thesis, the others are articles written by a journalist. Substantial sections of the thesis were put into the report, including typing and grammatical errors. Additionally, both original authors have made allegations that figures they used have been altered.

The original authors take a different stance regarding the policy than the senate committee. The journalist has expressed his discomfort and concern regarding his work being used to encourage a policy he does not support.

- Is this an example of plagiarism?
- What limitations are there, or should there be, on the use of the work of other authors in one's own work?



Case 2: Variations

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The following variations in this case can be used to further explore the issues.

- Suppose the report was properly referenced. Do the authors have a legitimate claim that their work was misused?