

A16

Do Not Try This in Class

To the Editor:

While one group of educators is trying to quantify digital literacy ("Measuring Literacy in a World Gone Digital," Business Day, Jan. 17), some of us see high levels of technological savvy in the increasing amount of plagiarism engaged in by our students.

A recent paper submitted in one of my classes was entirely cut and pasted from the Internet, and exhibited all of the skills described in the article: "knowing where and how to find information," as well as "interpreting, sorting, evaluating, manipulating and repackaging information." Only an understanding of "legal and ethical uses" seemed to be lacking.

I have begun using Google to check random phrases in each term paper for matches and have found an astonishing number of students using their skills to craft plagiarized assignments; by many accounts, the practice is on the rise. While some might want to give these students high grades for digital literacy, they earn F's in my classes.

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