Motivation

Professors at Saint Paul University observed that many international students were unclear about what constitutes plagiarism and academic fraud in North America. In order to address this issue, a pilot project consisting of a series of specialized plagiarism workshops designed by the Library was undertaken with the goal of helping international students understand what is expected from them in a North American academic context.

Methodology

The workshops were designed in collaboration with the International Student Office and the Academic Writing Help Centre. They were held in both English and French, and lasted 1.5 hours each. In addition to having a traditional presentation, students were given time for hands-on activities and practice questions. Presentation slides were placed on all the library research guides for easy access.

A "dry-run" trial workshop including a free pizza lunch was presented to several international students to obtain their feedback. To invite participants, an e-mail message was sent to all the international students. Additionally, each Dean sent out e-mails to professors reminding them to encourage their students to attend the workshops. The workshops were also advertised in multiple places such as the TV at the entrance to the university, the library, and the student council office bulletin.

Out of a total of 149 international students registered at Saint Paul University, 29 participants attended the four workshops (17 in English, 12 in French).

A pre test serving as a baseline evaluation was administered at the beginning of the workshops. The test was repeated at the end of the workshops (the post test). The test consisted of 10 questions: 3 were self-evaluation of participants' knowledge about plagiarism, 7 were true/false questions testing their knowledge of what constitutes plagiarism. A Plagiarism Workshop Feedback Form was also administered in order to evaluate the workshop based on usefulness, format, future application, and general feedback.

Cited references


Future Directions

In order to better support Saint Paul University students, the following future steps will be undertaken:

- Making the workshops mandatory for all incoming international students
- Extending the workshops to all Saint Paul students