

July 19, 2016 2:00 p.m.

Want to detect plagiarism in job candidates' or first lady hopefuls' writing? Check these out.

Plenty of resources available for nominal charges to see if something has lifted without attribution



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A cottage industry could have helped Melania Trump in the weeks leading up to her apparently plagiarized **Republican National Convention** speech Monday night.

There are plenty of online plagiarism detection tools out there that would have likely flagged a comparatively small passage of her speech as being way too similar to Michelle Obama's address to the **Democratic National Convention** eight years ago.

Mainly geared toward students, teachers and professors, they vary in functionality and cost — but all with the same goal of limiting and detecting plagiarism in written work.

They can also help the business community, hint hint, if you ask a job candidate to submit a writing sample, for example. And I'm sure there are plenty of other uses that don't immediately come to mind.

"I think companies are becoming increasingly better at using a number of services on the Internet that can allow them to detect plagiarism, and some of them are no different than what we use here for reports and term papers," said Robert Forsythe, dean of the Mike Ilitch School of Business at **Wayne State University**.

Some of the services are **TurnItIn**, **Dupli Checker** (which is completely free), **CopyLeaks** and **Plagium**.

For example, CopyLeaks business services plans start at \$9.99 per month for up to 25,000 words of plagiarism detection. **PlagTracker** plans start at \$14.99 per month (although it's half-off until midnight today, perhaps seeing an opportune time given Melania Trump's speech to offer discounted pricing).

Chris Harrick, vice president of marketing for Oakland, Calif.-based TurnItIn, said that although the company's core is education, about 15 percent of its 12,000 clients worldwide in 150 countries are in the "corporate sphere."

"We do a lot with Ph.D.'s, theses and high-stakes papers," he said. "If you have a corporation or an NGO, or where there is government money at stake, medical research, scientific research, patents, that's where we serve the corporate community. If you have misconduct at that level, it's not a student getting an F, it's millions of dollars."

"They are not only risking their reputations but also funding for important research that advances society," he said.

TurnItItn's parent company, iParadigms, was purchased in 2014 for \$752 million by New York City-based private equity firm **Insight Venture Partners**; GIC, the sovereign wealth fund of Singapore; and Palo Alto, Calif.-based Norwest Venture Partners.

Cleamon Moorer, who began as dean of the **Baker College** College of Business two months ago after serving as dean of the **Madonna University** School of Business, said it's good practice for businesses when developing external communications to use plagiarism detection services.

"It's definitely a sound approach and it gives you a lot of authenticity if you are the first where information is derived," he said.

Obviously it's not just businesses that need to be concerned.

"Walsh College's academic conduct committee is experiencing an increase in plagiarism from students using new and creative methods and original sources," said Jenny Tatsak, professor of business communications at Troy-based **Walsh College**.

"We attribute the increase to the availability of information. Some, if not most, plagiarism, distinct from 'cheating,' is unintentional."

Melania Trump, wife of presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, has been criticized since delivering her 1,347-word speech last night because a small portion of it — 57 words — have an uncanny resemblance to the first lady's speech in 2008.

My two cents: Of course that portion of the speech was plagiarized.

Is it the first plagiarized speech, or portion of a speech, in American political history?

Absolutely not. ([Ahem, Joe Biden.](#))

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a former Donald Trump primary foe and now a campaign supporter, can defend the speech as [93 percent original](#), but that leaves the other 7 percent — which was plagiarized.

If I were a teacher grading this speech — I taught English composition and creative and professional writing courses at the **University of Alabama** for two years as a graduate student there and four years at **Oakland Community College** when I moved back to the Detroit area —

I would draw a big frown next to that passage, write "SEE ME" on it and explain to the student the following:

"You simply cannot take the work of others, change a couple words, and pass it off as your own original thought.

"It doesn't matter one bit if the words you lifted are generic or common, or if it's only a small portion of a larger piece. You still passed off as your own work that you didn't write.

"I'm giving you a second chance, but you're extremely lucky I didn't give you a failing grade for this.

"Now rewrite the damn thing."