

teennewsbreak®

Produced exclusively for Newspapers In Education by PARADE magazine

Coming up in the
June 14 PARADE:
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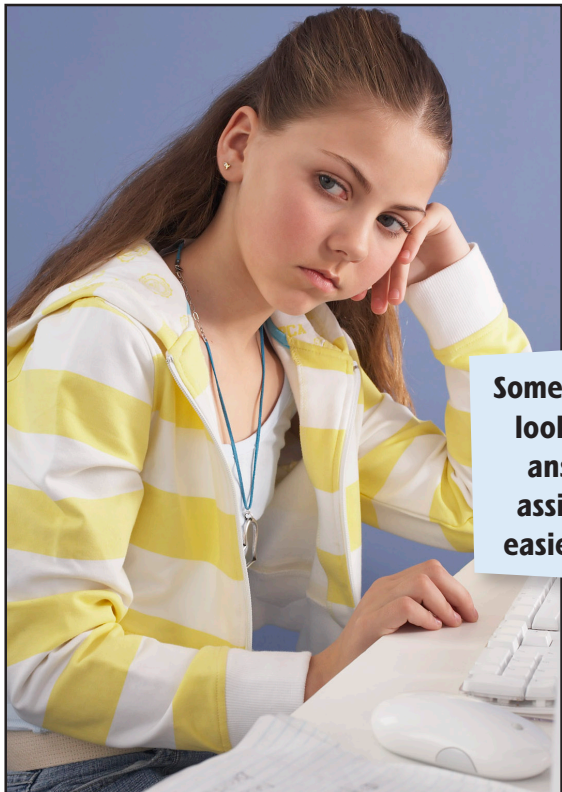


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Does the Internet Encourage Cheating?

A new search engine called Wolfram Alpha, launched on May 18, aims to be a computational knowledge database. Unlike search engines such as Google and Yahoo!, which give users links to relevant information, Wolfram Alpha provides answers. But it can also solve and graph complex mathematical equations and offer answers that once required more research to find. And Wolfram Alpha isn't the only new tool that could offer students a shortcut on their homework. Other sites, such as Cramster, Course Hero, Koofers, and

Some websites let students look up past exams and answers to homework assignments, making it easier than ever to cheat.

SparkNotes, are transforming the way undergraduates study. On Course Hero, for example, students can find old exams just by typing in a college name and course number. For homework, Cramster supplies step-by-step solutions to problems in more than 200 college-level math and science textbooks. The websites' defenders argue that teachers should not be recycling exams and that students who copy answers from a site are only harming themselves when it comes time to take the test. And a 2003 study at Rutgers University found that plagiarism and cheating from written sources were more popular than cheating from the Internet. But even so, 38% of undergraduates admitted to one instance or more of cut-and-paste plagiarism using the Internet in the past year.

What do you think?

- Should teachers be allowed to reuse past exams?
- Is it considered cheating if a student uses a website to look up homework answers or prepare for a test?
- Do you think many students cheat? Why or why not?



Share Your Thoughts:

E-mail paradeclassroom@parade.com and tell us if you think the Internet encourages cheating.

News Quiz

1. This U.S. automaker filed for bankruptcy, making it the largest industrial company ever to file for bankruptcy protection:
 - a. Chrysler
 - b. Ford
 - c. General Motors
2. A plane destined for France disappeared shortly after it took off from this country:
 - a. Brazil
 - b. Argentina
 - c. Mexico
3. General Motors struck a deal with a Chinese company to buy this brand:
 - a. Chevrolet
 - b. GMC
 - c. Hummer
4. This driver, who was suspended by NASCAR for having an oversized engine at a race last month, had his appeal denied:
 - a. Mike Skinner
 - b. Carl Long
 - c. Tony Stewart
5. Conan O'Brien's debut on The Tonight Show attracted an estimated:
 - a. 3 million viewers.
 - b. 9 million viewers.
 - c. 11 million viewers.

For more quiz questions, visit www.parade.com/classroom



Did You Know?

According to a 2006 survey by the Josephson Institute of Ethics, about 33% of high school students admitted to copying an Internet document for a classroom assignment at least once.