Digested Plagiarism Knowledge Survey (PKS)

Adapted from the PKS created by Miguel Roig. See his article Can undergraduate students determine whether text has been plagiarized? (1997, Winter) Psychological Record, 47(1), 113-122.

Actual Published Passage:

"Since subjective and objective tests of imagery ability have not resulted in predicted performance differences, the only way to determine if a person thinks visually or nonvisually is to ask that question directly. . . . One important finding is that many nonvisual thinkers have rather vivid imagery, but they can state with confidence that they do not think in pictures."


Examine the following paraphrases of the above passage. Circle the appropriate abbreviation after each paraphrase to indicate your belief that it constitutes a case of plagiarism (P), your belief that it does NOT constitute a case of plagiarism (NP), or your inability to decide (Can’t Decide) whether the paraphrase constitutes plagiarism or not.

In making your decision, assume that a correct citation is made to Zenhausern, 1978, either in parentheses following each paraphrase or in a footnote attached to each paraphrase.

1. According to one researcher, subjective and objective tests of imagery ability have not resulted in differences in performance and therefore, the only way to determine if a person thinks visually or nonvisually is to ask that question directly. One important finding is that many nonvisual thinkers who state with confidence that they do not think in pictures nevertheless experience rather vivid imagery.

   P    NP    Can’t Decide

2. Research has shown that instruments designed to measure whether a person is a visual or nonvisual thinker have not proven to be reliable in predicting differences in performance. Thus, the only technique to make this determination is to ask the individual directly. An interesting finding has been the fact that even those who confidently claim they are not visual thinkers do think in vivid imagery.

   P    NP    Can’t Decide
Actual Published Passage:

“Since subjective and objective tests of imagery ability have not resulted in predicted performance differences, the only way to determine if a person thinks visually or nonvisually is to ask that question directly . . . . One important finding is that many nonvisual thinkers have rather vivid imagery, but they can state with confidence that they do not think in pictures.”


3. Various types of instruments designed to measure imagery have yielded inconsistent results. One researcher in this field suggests that the only technique that will tell us whether someone thinks visually or not is to ask the person directly. However, this researcher also notes that some individuals who admit that they do not think in pictures report that they have vivid imagery.

   P      NP    Can’t Decide

4. Quantitative as well as qualitative measures have not proved able to predict differences between visual and nonvisual thinkers. Direct self-reports from individuals remains the only way we have of knowing whether someone thinks visually or nonvisually. However, research has shown that many who report thinking nonvisually do experience what Zenhausern calls “rather vivid imagery.”

   P      NP    Can’t Decide

5. Research has shown that the only way to identify visual and nonvisual thinkers is to explicitly ask each individual. Various tests of “imagery ability” have not proven to be adequate. A surprising finding has been “that many nonvisual thinkers have rather vivid imagery.” That said, these individuals are certain that “they do not think in pictures.”

   P      NP    Can’t Decide