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My interest in plagiarism began about a decade ago, when I noticed that students in my General Education courses were applying citation styles that did not seem to solve the problem of plagiarism. I decided to begin reading the literature on plagiarism, and in the process I talked with deans, college faculty, and administrators. These discussions helped me to refine and develop my own ideas about plagiarism prevention. By the time I began reading theory of authorship and plagiarism prevention, I had new thoughts about plagiarism prevention and my beliefs when I began this investigation.

The changes that my beliefs have experienced are reflected in the text. The first part of the gatekeeper in Chapter 1 was presented as a conference paper at the 1992 Conference on Rhetoric and Composition; the second part was presented at the 1993 Conference on Rhetoric and Composition in 1992 and 1993, respectively. The paper was revised and expanded for publication in 1992 and 1993, respectively. The ideas presented in Chapter 1 reflect the changes that my beliefs have experienced over the years.