

Trump employee apologises for plagiarising Michelle Obama speech

22nd July, 2016



An employee of the Trump Organisation has admitted plagiarism in helping to write Melania Trump's speech at the Republican National Convention. Mrs Trump was speaking at the convention to

support her husband Donald becoming the Republican nominee in the race to be President of the USA in November. She made a speech about how great she thought her husband was. Unfortunately, many journalists recognised several lines from the speech. They were identical to lines in a speech given by Michelle Obama in 2008 about her husband Barack. Newspapers have been full of stories in recent days about how Donald Trump's organisation allowed Mrs Trump to make a speech that was plagiarised.

Plagiarism is copying the work of other people without saying you are copying it. Students are taught from a very young age not to copy because it is stealing. Students who copy the work of others usually receive an F-grade for their work. Schools often expel students for plagiarism. Dr Alex Goodall, a university examination expert, said: "Melania's speech offers us a graphic example of plagiarism in action, from the highest levels of American politics." Writing expert Dr Declan Kavanagh said that because of the plagiarism, people will not trust or believe her words. Donald Trump said the story was "good news" because the speech, "got more publicity than any [speech] in the history of politics".

Sources: BBC.co.uk / Washington Post.com / NY Times.com

Writing

Plagiarism is stealing and should be a crime. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

employee / plagiarism / convention / nominee / journalists / speech / recent / stories / copying / students / F-grade / examination / expert / politics / example / trust

True / False

- Donald Trump said his wife's speech was plagiarised. T / F
- Melania Trump was speaking at the Democrat National Convention. T / F
- Melania made a speech about how great she thought Donald Trump was. T / F
- Melania's speech contained parts of a 2008 Michelle Obama speech. T / F
- Students can get an F-grade for plagiarism. T / F
- An examination expert said Melania's speech was not plagiarism. T / F
- A writing expert said people would still trust Melania. T / F
- Donald Trump thought the plagiarism story was good news. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. employee | a. get |
| 2. support | b. let |
| 3. great | c. provides |
| 4. several | d. wonderful |
| 5. allowed | e. specialist |
| 6. copying | f. worker |
| 7. receive | g. attention |
| 8. offers | h. duplicating |
| 9. expert | i. help |
| 10. publicity | j. a number of |

Discussion – Student A

- Should politicians write their own speeches?
- Why is plagiarism stealing?
- Should plagiarism be a crime?
- Is it OK to expel students from school for plagiarism?
- How lazy and uncreative are people who plagiarise?
- What does this story say about trusting politicians?
- What do you think Michelle Obama thinks about this?
- What questions would you like to ask Melania Trump?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. An employee of | a. work of other people |
| 2. helping to write | b. to be President |
| 3. the Republican | c. levels |
| 4. the race | d. that was plagiarised |
| 5. make a speech | e. nominee |
| 6. Plagiarism is copying the | f. for their work |
| 7. taught from a very young | g. the Trump Organisation |
| 8. receive an F-grade | h. publicity |
| 9. the highest | i. age not to copy |
| 10. the speech got more | j. Melania Trump's speech |

Discussion – Student B

- What did you learn at school about plagiarism?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Why do politicians need speech writers?
- How bad is this for Melania Trump?
- What do you think of Donald Trump?
- Why did the speech writer copy Michelle Obama?
- Why didn't the Republicans check the speech properly?
- What do you think of Melania Trump for using a plagiarised speech?

Spelling

- ddametit plagiarism
- speaking at the eotoncinnv to support her husband
- the Republican ieenmno
- journalists recognised vresale lines
- They were lctndaeii
- laeldwo Mrs Trump to make a speech
- Students are ghtatu from a very young
- usually eeicrve an F-grade
- Schools often elxpe students for plagiarism
- a university examination txpere
- the highest levels of American otcilpis
- got more iclbytpui

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. j	5. b
6. h	7. a	8. c	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – It makes you listen

You think a speech that makes you listen is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): it's short, it's funny or it touches your heart.

Role B – It's short

You think a speech that is short is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): it makes you listen, it's funny or it touches your heart.

Role C – It's funny

You think a speech that is funny is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): it's short, it makes you listen or it touches your heart.

Role D – It touches your heart

You think a speech that touches your heart is the best. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): it's short, it's funny or it makes you listen.

Speaking – Speech

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things about a speech at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • It makes you listen | • People remember it |
| • It's short | • It makes you think |
| • It's funny | • It touches your heart |
| • It's interesting | • It's your own words |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.