

Plagiarism/Writing Assignments

As the instructor, students take their cues about academic integrity from you. A one-and-done conversation about academic integrity on the first day of class is valuable, however consistent reiteration when assignments are given reinforces the attention you will be focusing on when grading. Assignment sheets with rubrics clearly identify your expectations and the student's responsibilities, especially for citation style. Use this opportunity to discuss your expectations of citing websites, primary versus secondary sources and cutting and pasting from Wikipedia (even in a discussion post) is typically not a good idea. If your course assessment includes a written paper as a major assignment and constitutes a major portion of the final grade, here are some recommendations.

First Day Short Essay. This will give you a basis of writing style. Perhaps the topic could be "academic integrity/honesty".

Turnitin. Enable in the LMS; explain Turnitin and how it works to your students.

<https://idt.camden.rutgers.edu/2020/04/01/using-turnitin-with-canvas-assignments/>

Use "scaffolding" or have students turn in any or all of the following over the course of a semester:

- A thesis statement/abstract.
- A written proposal for the paper.
- Outlines (as they progress).
- A working or annotated bibliography and/or literature review.
- Rough drafts or working notes. Drafts should be cited properly, too.
- All working drafts turned in with the final paper.
- Copies of cited references. (Some online "paper mills" will send these for an extra fee.)

Tie the topics and assignments to the class experience:

- Use writing assignments that have students analyze classroom activities or discussions in light of the text.
- Ask students to summarize their findings in class on the day they turn it in, or ask for one unusual thing that they learned about their topic.
- Ask test questions for each student tailored to their specific writing topics.
- Use local issues as topics (there's no shortage of national news affecting our region this semester!).
- Ask students to include a section in their term paper that discusses their topic in light of what was covered in class.
- On the final exam, ask students to summarize the main points of their research paper.
- As part of the paper or as a separate assignment, have students reflect personally (in writing or in class) on the topic they are writing about or on the process of doing research and writing.
- Require a short paper on academic dishonesty and plagiarism (which is also very useful in academic integrity hearings).