Designing Assignments to Encourage Academic Integrity

Acknowledgements

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Some material presented in this resource has been adapted from:


Students may plagiarize accidentally or be tempted to copy others’ material for many reasons but well-designed assignments can encourage them to produce original work. This resource offers good practice suggestions for assignment design that will discourage plagiarism and develop students’ appreciation for the correct use of materials produced by others.

Design Assignments to Encourage Academic Integrity

- Provide students with directions on how you want them to document or cite the sources they consult and/or quote
- Consider using shorter, more focused assignments, along with longer papers, or in place of one longer paper; you can also require the longer papers to build from the shorter, earlier assignments
- Assign the shorter, focused assignments early in the term; students get more opportunity to develop specific skills and they can refine their approach based on the feedback they receive from you
- Sequence parts of the assignment and have specific parts due throughout the course term (e.g. title and statement of focus, abstract or proposal, preliminary outline, bibliography, draft)
- Require students to use local sources - local newspapers and journals, flyers, interviews, etc.
- Have students create a page acknowledging all persons who provided any type of assistance on their project
- Ask students to keep a "research log" documenting where they looked for information, analyzing what search techniques worked and what didn't, and discussing how the material found affected their thinking on the topic
- Build in activities that develop skills in research and analysis
require that one or more specific sources that you've provided be integrated in the assignment

require a bibliography with short summaries of how students see each entry fitting into their topic

require students to use a certain type of source material (e.g. academic journal) as well as require a recent publication date

organize students into groups and ask them to prepare and post a guide that introduces others to information sources on a topic set by you

set up a forum discussion in which students are asked to compare results from a general internet search engine, a selective web directory, and a database of scholarly journal articles

set up a forum discussion in which students are asked to compare how a given topic is treated in several different reference sources, both print and electronic

ask students to analyze the content, tone, style, and audience of three journals and/or web sites related to course themes or topics and post their analysis for discussion

examples of good practice in assignment design

for two examples of assignments that illustrate many of these principles, see pdf resources:

- assignment design example 1: bmba 230 economics
- assignment design example 2: edca 401 instructional design in adult education
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- Assignment Design Example 1: BMBA 230 Economics
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