



## Recognizing and Defeating Plagiarism and Cheating

Academic honesty has always been a concern in higher education. However, the Internet has added a new dimension to the problem. The following options, when combined, can create a formidable, although not perfect barrier.

### Prevention Tools

- Include an academic integrity policy in your syllabus. Include your personal or institutional policy on grading if cheating or plagiarism is detected.
- Require a substantial introductory essay at the beginning of the course. Tell students the essay also serves as a measure of their writing and communication skills.
- Use a course expectations contract which incorporates a section on academic honesty.
- In your syllabus, advise students you use an online database tool (Google, etc.) to check test answers, discussion, and papers for plagiarism and remind them one more time what the consequences are for being caught violating the academic honesty code.
- Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Use varied means to see if your students understand course materials.
- Demand citation for all external sources.
- Consider using a proctor for critical testing.
- Restrict all electronic tools during testing and conduct periodic, no-notice inspections during class time

### Preparation Against

- Use questions sets and randomization of question sets.
- Set the test so only one question at a time is visible.
- Use restrictive time limits.
- Limit what students see after the test is completed.
- Include information in the test that is found in your content path and not in the textbook.
- Consider tools such as Respondus LockDown Browser (RLB)

### Detection

- Wide gap in writing skills demonstrated
- Specialized vocabulary
- Use of material not covered in course or associated resources
- Text includes information not related to the question
- Different size fonts
- Giveaways: author or site name is included, citation within the text, etc.