



Strategies to Reduce Plagiarism

We are entering that time of the term when students in many courses are producing and submitting major written assignments that constitute a significant component of their final grade. With stakes high, you must expect that at least a few will test your mettle, so be prepared with proven strategies you can employ to make plagiarism less likely to impact your teaching success.

- Be precise with your expectations on all projects, and incorporate them into a scoring rubric [see AdjunctSuccess printed resources for model]. The more specific you focus assignments, the more difficult it will be for tempted students to find a single "source" to submit for your assignment.
- As students have been conditioned by varied sets of ethical standards, invest the necessary time to define plagiarism and the consequences of being caught. Review your institution's policy [which should appear in your course syllabus also – remember it's a contract!] so that students are more likely to take the plagiarism issue seriously.
- Collect writing samples of your students' work early in the term on an in-class, ungraded exercise. In addition, you may want to retain copies of an early assignment, just in case a benchmark is needed for comparison to a paper or project submitted later in the term.
- Schedule dates by which students must submit key components, e.g. their topic, list of references, an outline, a rough draft, etc., and provide feedback on each before the student can move on to the next milestone. Also schedule required progress updates with each student for major assignments.
- Ask students to use annotated references and spot check them. But also realize that this is not a guarantee that students have actually read the book. Some will likely to have learned to "cut and paste" too easily, and might go to online booksellers' sites, using their reviews of books and then submitting them as "their" annotated bibliography.
- Require students to give you photocopies of their resources, particularly journal articles, web sites or copies of the pages from the books that they cited.
- Have students present their projects to the class followed by a question and answer period.
- Require students to sign an integrity oath, an approach routinely taken at many campuses.
- Before confronting a student the first time, talk with your department chair or mentor with your evidence and ask if it passes muster. Confirm with him/her your understanding of the process that is followed at your institution.

If convinced of an individual student's plagiarism, follow through professionally. Calmly ask the student to join you in a secure location, then simply showcase your evidence. Wait for a response. Most students will admit their guilt, but be prepared for some to vehemently deny their guilt, or become angry by your "accusation." Explain the policy again, and remind them of when it was reviewed in class. Articulate your action plan clearly to the student.

Confronting plagiarism or other student dishonesty requires courage. But failing to do so may provide fodder for the student grapevine, and lead to even more stressful situations the following term. If the ethical students know that you are checking for plagiarism, they will appreciate your

efforts and likely reinforce your standards. Honorable students and your honorable peers are very frustrated by the degree of cheating that occurs in higher education.

Schedule of Upcoming Webinars: Following please find the webinars that are available now for your registration [see directions in the welcome e-mail that you received from Ray Carpenter, or a FAQs on the AdjunctSuccess.net website]. Note: all times listed are Eastern. A recording of each webinar is e-mailed automatically to those who 1. Register for it in advance, and 2. Log-in during the session. Webinars will not be offered during the holiday period.

Sat., Mar. 14, 9:00 am	Assessing the Effectiveness of Your Teaching
Sat., Mar. 14, 2:30 pm	Managing Your Teaching Life More Effectively
Mon., Mar. 16, 8:30 pm	Implementing Active Learning Strategies in Your Teaching
Tue., Mar. 17, 8:30 pm	Today's College and University Students
Wed., Mar. 18, 8:30 pm	Managing Your Teaching Life More Effectively
Thu., Mar. 19, 8:30 pm	Managing Examinations Effectively
Sat., Mar. 21, 9:00 am	Employing Alternative Assessment in Your Teaching
Sat., Mar. 21, 2:30 pm	Implementing Active Learning Strategies in Your Teaching
Mon., Mar. 23, 8:30 pm	Building Your Adjunct Teaching Career
Tue., Mar. 24, 8:30 pm	Bringing Your Course to an Effective Conclusion
Wed., Mar. 25, 8:30 pm	Employing Alternative Assessment in Your Teaching
Thu., Mar. 26, 8:30 pm	Infusing Technology into Your Teaching
Sat., Mar. 28, 9:00 am	Building Your Adjunct Teaching Career
Sat., Mar. 28, 2:30 pm	Bringing Your Course to an Effective Conclusion
Mon., Mar. 30, 8:30 pm	Bringing Your Course to an Effective Conclusion
Sat., Apr. 4, 9:00 am	Bringing Your Course to an Effective Conclusion
Sat., Apr. 4, 2:30 pm	Building Your Adjunct Teaching Career
Mon., Apr. 6, 8:30 pm	Assessing the Effectiveness of Your Teaching
Tue., Apr. 7, 8:30 pm	Building Your Adjunct Teaching Career
Wed., Apr. 8, 8:30 pm	Bringing Your Course to an Effective Conclusion
Thu., Apr. 9, 8:30 pm	Building Your Adjunct Teaching Career

Additional Resources for AdjunctSuccess members: As mentioned above, a rich set of printable resources is posted at www.AdjunctSuccess.net to help you in critical aspects of your teaching. Also in this secure **Members Only** area is an alphabetized [by topic] compilation of websites, each focused on a teaching or classroom management topic. Explore these resources now, and begin saving preparation time and enjoying your teaching much sooner.

New Feature: For your added convenience, we are now posting a copy of the current issue of this eNewsletter on the home page at <http://www.adjunctsuccess.net>.

Troubleshooting Technical Problems: As with any technology-dependent resource, AdjunctSuccess occasionally displays technical challenges. In most cases, your first step in troubleshooting problems with webinar registration or participation is the Help Desk of Elluminate, the webinar software that we use. Call 866.388.8674, then select option #2.

Also: Inside the "Members Login" box of the AdjunctSuccess.net home page appears a link to a set of frequently-asked questions [FAQs] to facilitate your use of our resources. Also at the home page, you will see a link to testimonials submitted by our members that might help you better understand the mission, features, and usability of our resources. Please submit your suggestions for either feature to lyons@adjunctsuccess.net.