

Promoting Academic Integrity

My bias is that it is far better to promote integrity than it is to catch people who cheat.

Unfortunately, it is possible for students to accidentally commit plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty because they do not know the rules or because they have done sloppy research. Therefore, I work closely with students as they develop their research projects and teach them how to find quality information and how to properly document their research.

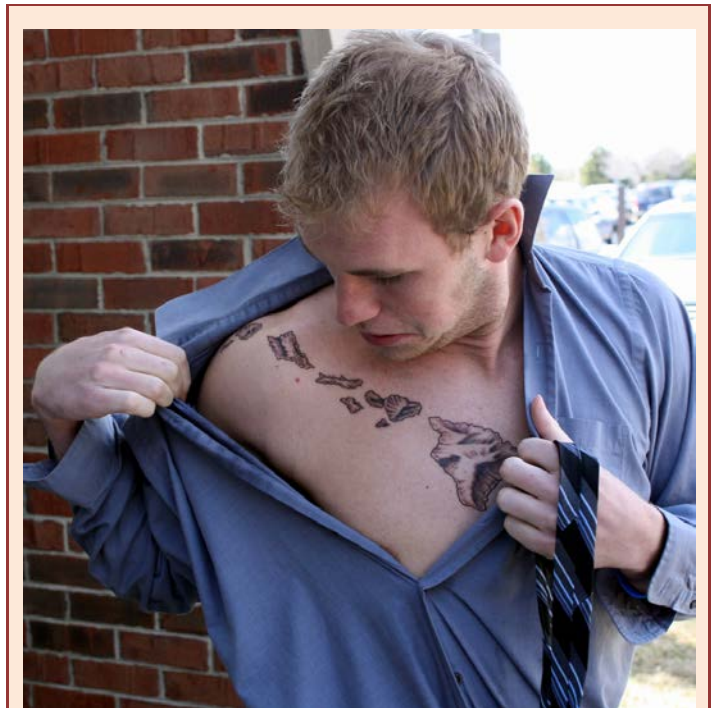
Although I am including a section on “Avoiding Academic Dishonesty” as part of this workbook, I know that to be effective, tips about how to avoid plagiarism and to learn the expectations of college level research must be integrated throughout the course; something that the worksheets in the *Back Porch Guide to the Research Paper* attempt to do.

Suggestion for Success

Some students use cheating as a strategy to get through their college careers. There is little that professors can do to assist such students who lack personal integrity. We can only do our best to catch and punish them.

However, we know that honest students will sometimes cheat because they have waited too long to begin their research papers. Confronted with the prospect of failing a major assignment, they will go against their moral core and commit plagiarism.

Don't set yourself up to be in such a situation where you might contemplate cheating. Begin your research early and work on it throughout the semester.



Tattooing maps of Hawaii or other types of information on your body as a strategy to pass a class would be an extreme form of academic dishonesty. Furthermore, if you begin to disrobe during class, you will likely catch the attention of your professor.



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Integrity Resources On-Line

I have designed an *Integrity Resources* web site that serves as a portal to excellent materials on avoiding plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. It provides links to on-line resources students can use to learn the expectation for producing academically honest research papers and other projects.

However, I believe that faculty members also have to take responsibility for insuring student success. There is much we can do to promote integrity as we design assignments. To this end, I have created two tutorials to teach faculty members how to plagiarize proof specific assignments and to promote academic integrity at the classroom level.

- Integrity Resources
<http://writing.stevenberg.info/integrity.html>

Plagiarism/Academic Integrity Quiz

One of my favorite activities is the Plagiarism/Academic Integrity Quiz. It is fun because it is designed to provoke thought and, in part, teach through humor. Generally, I will use this quiz as part of a group activity in class, but individuals can learn from the on-line version.

- Plagiarism/Academic Integrity Quiz
<http://writing.stevenberg.info/worksheets/w022.html>

On-Line Resources

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