

Preventing plagiarism on papers is not an easy task. The following guidelines will help you minimize the risk of plagiarized papers in your class:

1. Discuss plagiarism with your students and provide them with resources on how to avoid it.
2. Educate your students. Discuss the differences between paraphrasing, citations and quotes.
3. Provide clear guidelines about formatting. Post format examples and a condensed version of the publisher guidelines on Blackboard.
4. Discuss what a reputable source is and why Wikipedia is not acceptable.
5. Discuss common research databases where they can find the information they need.
6. Make sure your students know that you are aware of paper mills, and that you know how to use plagiarism detection software.
7. Assign topics that are narrow and specific, and therefore are difficult to find on the Internet.
8. Be sure that your assignments are designed to make your students think and discuss the topic. This can minimize cutting and pasting from other sources.
9. Make assignments a step-by-step process so students won't rush at the end. This has dual benefits: students will have feedback throughout the semester so they won't make the same mistakes again and the final paper will be easier and faster to grade, as well as enjoyable to read.
10. Remind your students about proper citation, why it is important to give credit to the author and that all sources must be cited.
11. When giving instructions about the assignment, remind students about ASU's policy and sanctions.
12. Encourage your students to ask you questions about proper citation and let them know where to go for further assistance. (Learn about ASU's resources).
13. Lead by example: cite all the documents (including figures and tables) you use for preparing your lecture. Be sure that all the documents that you create and distribute have the proper references and advise your students on how to cite their work.

References:

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The Academic Integrity Handbook for Instructors and Teaching Assistants. (2009-2010). Deborah Eerkes, Office of Student Judicial Affairs, University of Alberta. Used with permission August, 2010. From <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/>

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