

## **Tips for Preventing Cheating on Tests & Homework**

On any given day, most students are honest, and some of these examples may sound extreme. Nevertheless, we present these tips in hopes you may find them useful. Not all suggestions will apply to all teaching styles and all disciplines, so take what is appropriate for your own situation.

### **Tests**

- When announcing a test, be sure to review your policy around cheating. Remind students that it is immoral to cheat and it is also immoral to help others cheat.
- Make sure your expectations for test answers are clear. For example, if students need to show their work when solving a math problem, be sure to state that.
- Have at least one lesson on test-taking & time management skills early in the semester.
- Collect blue books the day before or right before the tests & make a conspicuous, distinctive mark on them so that you can tell that students have not brought in a pre-written blue book.
- If space permits, arrange students so that there are empty chairs in between each student.
- Assign students seating during the test. Separate friends.
- Distribute different versions of the same test. OR, order the questions differently on different versions of the test.
- Instruct students to keep their test papers close to their body and on the surface of the table during the test (for example, students shouldn't wave their answers in the air or use their blue book as a fan).
- Walk around and monitor students frequently. Don't sit still in the front of the room.
- Do not allow more than one student to go to the bathroom at a time. When the student leaves for the bathroom, collect their test and hold it.
- Be aware that students might hide cheat sheets in their backpack, in their jacket, on food or drink wrappers, or in a pen cap. They might also tape them to a wall, a chair or under a desk, or pin them to a bulletin board near their desk.
- When appropriate, employ multiple types of test questions, and make use of open ended critical thinking questions that will elicit a variety of answers.

### **Homework**

- Again, discuss time management skills with your students.
- Do not allow students to turn in identical homework assignments. Give zero points to both the cheater and the one who allowed their work to be copied.
- Clarify which assignments are group assignments and which are not.
- Give impromptu assignments based on class discussions.
- Be sure that students have the skills and resources necessary to complete the homework. Practice these skills in class. Give assignments that are challenging yet help students to build skills so that they gain confidence.
- Assign different problem sets to different groups of students.

- Have students share their answers in class.
- Consider having some assignments that don't count towards the grade, or consider weighting the homework such that honest mistakes don't pull down the overall grade. Give students a place to make mistakes safely so that they can build their skills.