



# VISTA HIGHER LEARNING

## How do I help avoid student cheating in my online course?

Teachers often are concerned that students working online might be prone to cheat on homework and assessments. Here are a few tips to help avoid this problem using your language program's Supersite or Prime online course.

1. Be clear about your expectations with your students:
  - a. Make sure your students clearly understand the different actions that you would consider cheating.
  - b. Have students commit to a 'Code of Conduct' that clearly lays out the ground rules for what is, and is not, acceptable for your online assignments.
  
2. Add more 'open-ended' activities to your class that require students to provide a personal response (that you can read, watch, and/or listen to and evaluate):
  - a. The following activities are examples that require written or oral production:
    - i. Composition and Open-ended writing activities
    - ii. Student recording audio activities
    - iii. Partner Chats
    - iv. Virtual Chats
  - b. If you are concerned about the time needed to grade open-ended answers, here are some tips:
    - i. In the grading area, the "Spot-check" feature enables you to review a certain number of the students in detail, and then grant full access to the rest of your students. This enables you to identify trends and keep students honest, while avoiding a full review for all students' submissions.
    - ii. Assign open-ended activities to a 'Credit' gradebook category. This enables you to review student work, if you choose, but otherwise grants full credit to students for their submission.
  
3. Take steps to customize or "randomize" assessments, such as tests and quizzes:
  - a. The toolset included in Custom Assessment allows you to create duplicates of existing assessments and then modify them as desired. Modifications may include:
    - i. 'Shuffling' the order of questions in an assessment.
    - ii. Adding new sections to an existing assessment:
      1. For example, add an open-ended writing prompt to an otherwise 'auto-graded' lesson test to ensure some written production.
  - b. Limit the amount of time that a student can work with an assessment by utilizing the 'time-limit' feature when assigning.
    - i. Note that if time limits pose problems for some students, you can provide individual students in your class with a different time-limit or none at all.
  - c. Password-protect the assessment. For K-12 students, an emailed password to parents can help ensure that students are accessing the Assessment in a controlled environment.

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