

Assignments that are hard to copy, find or fake

A summary of advice

1. New each time
2. Demand higher-order thinking skills
3. Specify local, recent, specific contexts
4. Specify what sources and information to use
5. Control the process, get students to start early
6. Authenticate the result (*'Who did this work?'*)

Teachers' reactions:

1. I teach classes of 150. It is not realistic to expect me to use drafts.
2. Students learn by copying others. It doesn't matter if the work is not original.
3. It took me ages to write the case study in the assignment. It is not realistic to expect me to make a new one each time
4. Marking individual answers takes much more time. I don't have time.
5. The rules stop me from changing my assessment. I can't change what I have always done, even if I wanted to.
6. It is not my job to stop students from copying. It is their job to be honest.
7. When I write the assignment, well, it looks fine to me. How am I supposed to know what students will find easy to copy?
8. Thinking up new assignments takes time. I always have to do it at the end of the year when all I want is to go on holiday!