TEN POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN ADDRESSING PLAGIARISM IN ESSAYS

1. Change your essay topics every semester, or at least rephrase them and change the focus so students cannot buy a paper from previous students.
2. Tell the students you keep copies of essays on file from previous semesters.
3. Ask for a variety of sources: online academic article, article from a "paper" academic journal, book, website, video, primary document, etc. You can ask for the list to be handed in, and preferably annotated part way through the course.
4. Give a list of sources all students must use as the basis of their papers.
5. Ask students to give a brief talk in front of the class about the topics they are writing on.
6. Ask students to swap outlines or drafts with another student in class and give feedback on each other's work.
7. Help students to get help with their ideas/thesis/formatting, etc. in your office hours, at the Writing Centre, or from WriteAway.
8. Give a workshop (or ask the Writing Centre Coordinator or the subject librarian to do one) on academic writing, its particular challenges, and plagiarism. It doesn't need to be a long workshop, but legally, you are then allowed to say the students have been informed that plagiarism is wrong. A plagiarism contract is useful at this point.
9. Get the students to do some unaided writing in class (maybe a first draft of the paper as a midterm or just a one-page proposal for the paper) and keep copies of their work to compare to their at-home writing.
10. This is counterintuitive, but tell your students that you do not think they will plagiarize and that you have faith in them. Assure them you are not paranoid about plagiarism, but you will report it every time. Give them every chance to redeem themselves before they submit the paper. Tell them to bring their drafts to your office hours, to the Writing Centre and to WriteAway for advice and to check that they are not inadvertently plagiarizing.

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