Making it Personal in Order to Reduce Plagiarism

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Classroom Context

- Undergraduate Students
  - Middle/Secondary Content Area Literacy Methods Class
  - Students will student teach the following semester.

- Master’s-Level Students
  - Curriculum classes for experienced teachers
  - Some students are from non-school settings.

- Doctoral-Level Students
  - Curricular and Instructional Theory Course
  - Students are master teachers, school administrators, district administrators and low/middle-level higher education administrators and instructors.
First Assignment: Goal Statement

- Students explain their short-term and long-term goals.
- Due the second week of the semester
- No more than 3 pages

Rationale for this Assignment
- I gather baseline knowledge of the students’ writing style, which include but is not limited to diction, sentence structures, syntax, lexicon, voice, tone.
- Students learn how I grade.
- I scan all graded papers prior to returning them to the students.
Subsequent Assignments

- Since all students enter my classes with prior knowledge and experience of a specific academic field, they must adapt the assignments to their field.

- Kinds of Assignments
  - Undergraduate Students: Lesson Plans
  - Master’s Level Students: Curricular Unit Plan
  - Doctoral Level Students: Curriculum Audit, Personal Definition of Curriculum

- All students must follow a specific format that I give them.
Suggestions

- Give a short “Introductory” writing assignment, due the next week.

- Have students incorporate personal information within the writing assignment.
  - The “Conclusion” of the writing assignment can be a critique of the assignment itself or a self-reflection of the writing process.

- No matter the course, tell the students to choose one topic/concept/theory, and they must write all of their papers on this one topic/concept/theory.
Identifying Plagiarism

1. Did they follow the directions?

2. How does it compare to what they wrote in the scanned Goal Statement?

3. Triangulate via a search engine.
Contact Information

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