

## **Often Plagiarized Assignments / How to Prevent Plagiarism**

**Movie Review** -- Don't assign movie reviews. Reviews are so widely available online. We see numerous plagiarism cases each semester related to movie reviews.

Suggestions: Students could review a movie review instead of the actual movie. Students could critique a campus event -- theatre, dance, etc.

**Rhetorical Analysis** -- There are gazillions of online papers for rhetorical analysis, even articles, essays that seem obscure. Don't have students analyze classic texts or authors that will intimidate them and encourage them to consult outside sources. Remember your audience for this assignment (largely 18-year-olds).

Suggestions: Whatever text you assign, google it. See what's out there. The best way to plagiarism-proof this assignment is to have students analyze an essay or news article that was published just days before you give the assignment. Offer students a choice of a few different texts, but in general, don't have them pick their own texts. (An exception is if students are rhetorically analyzing a text they have found and will use for another paper.)

**Visual analysis** -- offer students a choice, but don't have them pick their own texts. Google whatever you choose -- analysis of maybelline ad (for example). We've seen cases where the student didn't find the exact visual or ad, but they copied material about a similar product (beer, makeup, etc). Ads tend to use similar techniques, so there are plenty of ad analysis examples online for students to borrow from.

Suggestions: Again, really current visual texts can be helpful, or really old texts. I have a collection of weird album covers from the 60s and 70s that I've used. You could also have students create their own visual text and the write a self-analysis of what techniques they tried to use.

**Informative Synthesis / Argumentative Synthesis** -- give students plenty of guidance for this assignment. Don't just tell them to research something that interests them. Give the paper more of a task and a more narrow choice of topics. A completely open topic is intimidating to students and leaves them at a loss for what you want.

Suggestions: For informative synthesis (EN 101) the paper can be a review of the literature -- students do web research on a topic to determine where most authors agree and what the main disagreements are. You provide a list of possible topics. You can always approve other projects for students who do happen to have an idea they are interested in. Also think about the purpose and audience of the assignment. The more specific the assignment, the fewer plagiarism cases.

**FWP staff is always happy to consult with you about assignments and ways to plagiarism proof them. Drop us an email or come by the FWP offices.**