



Academic Integrity

As a student you may have heard the phrase academic integrity or of had a teacher tell you not to plagiarize, but do you actually know what that means?

Academic integrity means that you are the person doing the submitted work and can easily show the knowledge you are learning in the course. Plagiarism is defined as being an act of fraud which involves stealing and lying, by using someone else's work and passing it off as your own.

Has a virtual student with OCVS you want to make sure that everything that you submit is written in your own words.

Examples of plagiarism are turning in or copying another students work, having someone else complete your work, copying information without including sources, paraphrasing information without including sources, or buying a paper on the Internet. Yes, that is something that students actually do!

Plagiarism can happen to anyone and there are a few reasons why. Students are taught proper research skills in school but some students may not fully understand how to avoid plagiarism. Others might not know how to cite sources properly and think they're safe from plagiarism when they actually aren't.

Some students may fall behind pace and start to feel pressured or overwhelmed, and in this type of the situation it's easy to succumb to plagiarism.

Some students may feel like they don't have enough information or they're not prepared to complete the assignment, and this leads them to rely a little too much on the Internet for help.

Knowing the causes of plagiarism can help you be more aware of how to avoid it.

Did you know that at OCVS there is a program that each assignment passes through before it gets to your teacher? This program is called Turnitin and it identifies plagiarism. We want to make sure that you are doing your own work and that you are able to successfully display what you're learning in your online courses.

Plagiarism does have its consequences and it's important for you to know what they are. Make sure to review the consequences and know what is expected if you happen to have an academic integrity violation.

If you're working on an assignment and you're not quite sure if what you're doing involves plagiarism, ask your teacher. Your teacher is there to help guide you and help ensure that that work you submit is your own.

Avoiding plagiarism by submitting your own work, in addition to following the assignment directions, reviewing the grading rubric, and study for quizzes and exams, will ensure that you are well on your way to academic success!