

**From:** [Mailing list for information relevant to Bellisario College of Communications faculty](#), on behalf of [Bortree, Denise Sevick](#)  
**To:** [L-COMM-FACULTY@LISTS.PSU.EDU](mailto:L-COMM-FACULTY@LISTS.PSU.EDU)  
**Subject:** Teaching Tuesdays - Academic Integrity  
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## BELLISARIO BULLETIN



– By [Denise Bortree](#)

Teaching Tuesdays is back! I'm so grateful to our new instructional designer, Danielle Harris, for helping relaunch this weekly email. I appreciate how much our faculty value teaching, and I hope the weekly issues will answer questions that faculty have, as we continue to navigate the pandemic and our student needs. Thanks to Whitney Justice for our new slick layout for the weekly email. Hope you all enjoy this issue.

*Before moving on, I want to acknowledge the sadness that we are all feeling with the passing of Curt Chandler. He was an incredible teacher and mentor to our students, and his passing is a huge loss for the college. Curt was a transformative teacher. We can pay tribute to him by continuing to celebrate good teaching in the college.*

### Important Items of Note

I want to take a minute to introduce our new instructional designer, Danielle Harris. In addition to gathering information and writing for Teaching Tuesdays (something I added to her already long list of responsibilities), she works with faculty to develop our online courses for residential students. She has stepped into Shannon Kennan's role (big shoes to fill) and will be available to faculty with questions about Canvas (note her great suggestions on Canvas below) and other educational technology such as Kaltura, Packback, and others. Danielle comes to us with lots of experience in the academic instructional design world, and in my short time working with her, I've been impressed with her thoroughness and organization. We are incredibly lucky to have her on the team. Feel free to reach out to introduce yourself to her at [dvh5685@psu.edu](mailto:dvh5685@psu.edu).

### What to Expect in This Issue

Last semester Julie Evak, Patrick Plaisance, and I made the rounds to faculty department meetings to talk about how to handle **academic integrity in the classroom** and to share the [new AI reporting system](#). Thanks to faculty who responded to our request; we have seen an uptick in reports across the college. As we discussed in the session, it's important to keep the balance and give students the best chance of avoiding integrity violations. To that end, Danielle has written an excellent article, below, offering good suggestions for "cheat-proofing" your course. I hope you find these useful.

On a separate note, I want to wrap up by acknowledging that this is the first day of Black History Month. Next week we will take a closer look at race in the classroom. More to come on that.

### Upcoming Events

Bellisario College has noteworthy events coming up in the next couple of weeks.

- **February 1: Guest Lecture Odell Bizzell**

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Freeman Auditorium, HUB-Robeson Center

Description: Discussing empowerment related to breast cancer, health care inequities, social justice and more. His lecture is free and open to the public.

• **FEBRUARY 11: “Diaspora Youth as Cyberwarriors When Their Homeland is at War”**

Speaker: Dmitry Chernobrov, University of Sheffield

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Description: Dmitry Chernobrov, a faculty member at the University of Sheffield, will be featured during a session sponsored by the Children, Youth, Media and International and Global Conflict Zones Initiative of the Rock Ethics Institute. Register [HERE](#).

## TEACHING TIP



– By [Danielle Harris](#)

### Upholding Academic Integrity in Online Assessment

With the pandemic-induced increase in online learning, we have seen academic integrity rise to the forefront of our collegial dialogues and priority lists in higher education. As one of our [four Penn State Principles](#), academic integrity is defined by the Faculty Senate as “the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner.” Whether online or in person, maintaining academic integrity remains imperative across modalities. However, with more students participating in online assessments and activities, concerns often arise about whether cheating will escalate as students take work out of the physical classroom, and into the virtual one.

So, how do we go about upholding academic integrity in a virtual setting? There are a variety of tactics and tools for preventing cheating in online exams, and this issue of *Teaching Tuesdays* will share a few tips which may lessen fears or apprehensions about assessing student knowledge asynchronously.

#### TIP 1 Diversify and Modify! Adapting Assessments to the Online Classroom

A common pitfall for those transitioning from residential to online learning is to take materials from the in-person course, such as PowerPoint presentations and multiple choice exams, and simply place them online. Problems will likely arise from this approach, and online cheating may be one of them. When packing up and moving online, try to adjust assignments and exams so that they are better suited for virtual learners. This has been referred to as a “modality makeover” and the nickname is not only cute, but fitting. Consider styling assignments so that students are prompted to provide thoughts on course concepts, or perhaps collaborate with classmates via group exercises.

When performing this assessment makeover, ask yourself a few important questions:

- Which learning outcome is the residential activity designed to achieve?
- Can a remote activity be created which achieves the same learning outcome, but using a different approach?
- Can the entire activity be performed remotely, or will campus resources be necessary?
- Is there a virtual option available with my textbook publisher's resources?
- What will be the most effective avenue for my course?

Online Classroom Activity	Synchronous Option	Asynchronous Option
Student presentation	Students present live via a web conferencing platform.	Students record a video presentation and upload it to the Canvas learning management system (LMS).
Group project	Students collaborate via a web conferencing platform or applications such as Google Drive.	Students collaborate using a discussion board in the Canvas LMS.
Peer review	Students share and discuss via a web conferencing platform or applications such as Google Drive.	Students share documents and feedback through email or via a discussion board in the Canvas LMS.

Diversifying assessments will allow students multiple ways to demonstrate knowledge, as well as lessen opportunities

for cheating in online quizzes or multiple-choice exams. Regarding multiple-choice assessments, consider a replacement which asks students to explain or discuss their understanding of course concepts. This could be done in the form of a written assignment, such as an essay or discussion board, or a project that is shared with the class for feedback. If concerned about cheating on students' written assignments, you can utilize [Turnitin](#); Penn State has free access to this service for all faculty. [Turnitin](#) allows you to offer feedback through markup tools and generate originality reports to detect plagiarism.

Of course, there will be times that online quizzes or multiple-choice exams are necessary and there are techniques you can use to prevent cheating during these exercises:

**⌚ Timed Exams:** Offering a fair amount of time, but not so much that students can peruse instructional materials closely or waste too much time searching the web for answers.

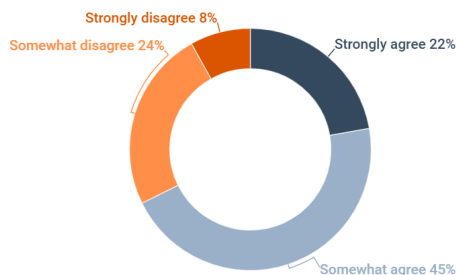
**🔁 Multiple Attempts:** Providing students with 2-3 attempts may alleviate the stress of being timed but, for your peace of mind, consider using a question bank so that students get a different mix of questions for each attempt. Canvas settings can easily be adjusted to automatically take the highest, latest, or average score when allowing multiple attempts.

### TIP 2 Emphasize the Honor Code! Creating a Required Academic Integrity Assignment

Another technique that instructors have found successful in encouraging academic integrity among students is creating an honor code that outlines policies. A [Bellisario College Honor Code](#) is already in existence, so you have the option to make the [Honor Code Pledge](#) a graded assignment in your virtual classroom, requiring students to make the pledge and submit verification.

## Impact Honor Codes Have on Cheating

How much students agree having in place an honor code that explicitly prohibits cheating encourages students to behave more ethically



Source: *Inside Higher Ed/College Pulse* survey of 2,000 college students; explore the data [here](#).

### TIP 3 Utilize Valuable Resources! Communicating with Colleagues and Virtual Learning Veterans

Online learning has been around for a long time. Institutions and instructors that adopted this modality early have had more time to understand the intricacies of a virtual classroom, implement effective techniques, and avoid issues with academic dishonesty. Take advantage of the wisdom that online learning veterans can offer and reach out to colleagues within your department or the College. Also check out resources available on public platforms, such as:



[Canvas Commons](#) is one location where you can view items created by instructors around the world. Shared items here include uniquely designed assignments, quizzes, discussion forums, module layouts, and homepage ideas. Sign into your PSU Canvas account to access this learning object repository that enables educators to find, import, and share resources.



[The Score Podcast](#) delves into the complex and sometimes startling issues surrounding academic

## CANVAS CUE



– By [Danielle Harris](#)

The Canvas learning management system (LMS) is a wonderful tool for instructors, whether teaching an online or residential course. For those teaching in-person courses, Canvas is a great location to house important course information, such as the syllabus, and to collect assignment submissions from students. For those managing an online classroom, Canvas offers many other useful features which help with the overall layout and presentation of course content.

With that being said, there are many nooks and crannies within Canvas where we may find amazing tools, but not necessarily know how to utilize them effectively. Below are a few resources that might be helpful in a time of panic, frustration, or perhaps creative inspiration.

- [Canvas Instructor Guide](#): This guide will link you to surprisingly clear and useful instructions on how to work with specific Canvas features.
- [Canvas Instructure Status](#): If something isn't functioning and you are wondering about the current operational status of Canvas, you can check that here.
- Semester Preparation Resources:
  - [How do I copy content from another Canvas course using the Course Import tool?](#)
  - [How do I enable a grading scheme for a course?](#)
  - [How do I manage Course Navigation links?](#)
  - [How do I view assignment comments from my instructor?](#)
  - [How do I view annotation feedback comments from my instructor directly in my assignment submission?](#)
  - [How do I change my name?](#)
- [Instructional Designer](#): Please reach out with questions or concerns about Canvas tools and how to make them suit your course.

## SHARE A TEACHING STRATEGY



Share something fabulous that you have been doing in your classroom! Do you have a teaching technology or strategy that you've seen succeed and would like to share it in the *Teaching Tuesdays* newsletter? If so, please [share your idea](#) for an upcoming issue.