We’ve all heard about cheating and plagiarism, and how it’s wrong. But sometimes we can get ourselves into situations where we feel there is no choice. But there is ALWAYS a choice... let’s look at some alternatives:

**Honesty** – Be authentic when writing exams and term papers. Honesty comes out in everything you do, not just your school work!

**Trust** – Let your instructors know that they can trust you to do the right thing. Consistent honesty creates trust, and a little trust goes a long way!

**Fairness** – You can expect fair treatment from your instructors, but you must also treat your peers fairly by doing your own work.

**Respect** – Show respect by giving credit where credit is due. People will treat you with respect when they see that you are respectful of them. It’s contagious!

**Responsibility** – Imagine how different the world would be if everyone took the small step of being responsible and accountable for their own actions. After all, we’re all responsible for the academic climate of the University of Alberta.

Okay, that’s great on paper, but how does it look in practice? Try this on for size:

- Instead of handing in a paper at the last minute that is copied or that uses someone else’s work without giving them credit, ask for an extension and do it properly. If you can’t get an extension, most instructors give a small penalty (5-10% per day late). Take the penalty, and ensure that your paper is well thought out and properly cited.

- If you don’t know the answer to a question on an exam skip that question - even if it’s worth 20 marks. You may fail the exam, but it’s better than the alternative!

- When working together on assignments, be clear on what is expected of you. If it’s an individual assignment, make sure the work is your own. If you’re not sure where the limits are, ask your prof. It’s great to learn from each other, but you must do the work yourself.

**Losing a few marks on a test or an assignment is MUCH better than a permanent F8 (Failure Due to Inappropriate Academic Behavior) on your transcript and a suspension!**

We’re all here to LEARN. Make sure you do your part by being an active learner and a strong link in the academic community!

For more information, contact Deborah Eerkes at the Student OmbudService 492-5514