Mastering security features

Mastering statistics show that students who copy get lower grades overall than students who do the work. However, students do copy, offline or online, and security can be an issue.

Mastering provides a number of ways to increase security.

First, select the Quiz or Test assignment category.

In both, for example, students can’t print the assignment and they get only one chance at an answer. In Test, item titles are hidden. After students complete a test, they can’t see the questions and their answers again until after the due date.

To make your assignment even more secure, edit assignment settings. For example, set a time limit.

In timed assignments, once a student opens an assignment, the timer runs continuously, even if the student leaves the assignment. This both limits students’ time on the assignment and prevents them from consulting other assignments. If they open other assignments, they lose all remaining time.

You can require a special password to get into the assignment. This is useful when a test is proctored.

If you use additional settings frequently, you may wish to create a new category with those settings. From Gradebook > Manage, create new categories or edit the defaults of existing ones. Here you can also access several new settings. For example, you can randomize the order in which students see assignment items.

When selecting content, choose randomizable items or create your own items. Make sure to randomize all possible items by checking Randomize variables. Randomize the order of items.
Once the assignment is past due, use Diagnostics to see students who have got high scores in a very short time. Compare student assignment times, low to high, with student assignment scores, high to low.

A persistent pattern of high scores and low times has been associated with students who copy and may indicate students of interest.

Click any bar to see detailed information about a student's scores and times.

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