

**Academic Integrity**

*Getting help when preparing your assignments*

**Narrator:**

You're here because you want to learn, so it's important you know where it's ok to get help from. If you're studying with The Open University, a good port of call is the module resources and materials. These will include guidance about assignments. You can also ask on the module forum, which is moderated by a tutor who can give you reliable information. Of course, you can always contact your tutor too.

You may also be part of study groups on social media, which are often a great source of support. Just make sure you aren't sharing assignment ideas, or your own work, as this is not allowed. If your friends are struggling, just encourage them to speak to their tutor.

The University needs to make sure that each student's work is their own – you are being assessed and awarded a degree based on *your own* efforts.

When researching your assignment, you may come across essay sharing sites. You might even be encouraged to submit your work there. Stay away!

These sites are monitored and sharing your work falls under 'enabling plagiarism'.

Using material from these website means you are copying from other students' work, which is also a form of plagiarism.

The best way to learn a subject is by reading information from respected sources, such as books, journal articles and module websites. Don't go for quick answers! The material could be unreliable and it's unlikely to help you develop your knowledge.

Remember, if you are struggling, especially with an upcoming deadline, speak to your tutor!