Workshop Assignment # 1 & Response Paper # 2 – Plagiarism Project
4250 (Group Project)

Context
Your professional writing teacher starts class one day by describing a recent set of plagiarism cases in the department. Without revealing anything about the students or teachers involved in the cases (or about the outcomes), your teacher says that the problem seems to be related to the fact that few students-and faculty, for that matter-agree on what counts as plagiarism. “Can any of you tell me what our campus policy on plagiarism is?” he asks.

A student next to you quips, “Just say no!” Everyone laughs, but it’s clear that no one is really sure how “plagiarism” is defined on your campus. After some discussion, it’s also clear that few people in your class know how plagiarism cases are handled on campus. As your teacher points out, teachers on campus have penalized plagiarism cases on campus over the past year with everything ranging from failing grades on assignments to expulsion. In some cases, these penalties have been imposed by instructors who then discovered that the penalties disagreed with campus policy and had to be rescinded.

After a half hour’s worth of discussion, you start to wonder what all of this has to do with professional writing. Your instructor solves the riddle: “For our next project, we’re going to address this issue on campus.

Over the next one week, I want your group (group of 3) to research and create a handout on campus plagiarism and several interim research reports. You’ll need to find out what our policies are on campus. Then you’ll want to find out what other students and teachers on campus think about plagiarism (and their experiences with it). You’ll need to figure out what sort of document would best address these issues, then design a document that would be distributed to students across campus.

Deliverables:

Workshop # 1: (5 %): Initial Work to Know the Existing Practice and Proposal for a New Study

1. **Brief memo (1 page):** Outline the official campus policy on plagiarism, with an explanation (in plain language) if necessary.

2. **A research plan memo (1 page):** Proposal for research (**what you propose to study**) on what people on campus think about plagiarism (and why it’s a problem). This might include one or more of the following elements: interview, survey, web survey, or other research method.

Response Paper # 2: (5 %): Interim Reports with a Focus on the Final Proposed Handout

1. **Research results memo (1-page):** *Do a sample survey including at least 3-4 students in campus.* Attach a copy of the survey questionnaire if you are using one.

2. **Document goals memo (1-page):** Describe what specific, concrete goals the document will need to perform. Be more detailed than, “Tell people about plagiarism.” For example,
you may want to include things like, “Help readers recognize the difference between plagiarism and team-based writing.

3. Document plan memo (1 page): Consider including graphics, tables, example text, etc. in order to fulfill document goals. I am asking you to outline your strategy to meet document goals.

4. Document draft (1 page) - This is the actual handout (Can be oriented portrait or landscape).

5. Write a paragraph to explain how you think these questions address the issue of purpose, product and process. Write a second paragraph on how your group decided to assign individual responsibilities and how did it work out.