

[Joanne Jacobs](#)

Inking and thinking on education by Joanne Jacobs

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Confessions of a ghost writer

November 17, 2010 By [Joanne](#) [3 Comments](#)

Would-be educators are the biggest cheaters, claims an [academic ghost writer](#), who tells all to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

I, who have no name, no opinions, and no style, have written so many papers at this point, including legal briefs, military-strategy assessments, poems, lab reports, and, yes, even papers on academic integrity, that it's hard to determine which course of study is most infested with cheating. But I'd say education is the worst. I've written papers for students in elementary-education programs, special-education majors, and ESL-training courses. I've written lesson plans for aspiring high-school teachers, and I've synthesized reports from notes that customers have taken during classroom observations. I've written essays for those studying to become school administrators, and I've completed theses for those on course to become principals.

[Why would teachers be cheaters?](#) Public-school teachers are paid for time served and credits or degrees earned, not for skill or performance, writes Cato's Andrew J. Coulson. "This has created demand on the part of teachers for graduate degrees — not necessarily for the acquisition of advanced skills, but *for the diplomas themselves*, which amount to valuable cash prizes."

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