“Faking the Grade” Documentary – CBC Doc Zone
http://www.cbc.ca/doczone/episode/faking-the-grade.html

Subject of Documentary:
“It is estimated that at least 70 per cent of university students cheated at some point during their high school years. Many continue to do it (and few get caught) once they move on to post-secondary education. And research shows those who cheat in school go on to cheat in life. Those cheaters are everywhere, because ours is a culture where honesty has been de-valued and a win-at-any-costs strategy is encouraged.” (CBC DocZone Website)

Students, administrators, parents and teachers speak about their experiences around what’s known as “Academic Integrity”, while experts provide insight into why students cheat. Those experts say that it’s no surprise that young people cheat. They see it going on everywhere in the world of sports and entertainment, and especially in business.

Your assignment:

While you watch the documentary, reflect on the discussion questions (back of page) and write down your opinions. Using some of the ideas you reflected on, and the subject matters discussed in the documentary you will take a position regarding academic integrity. Your response should answer the following questions:

1. What is your position pertaining to academic integrity? (Is cheating acceptable) Explain your answer with clear arguments in support of your position. You should also challenge some arguments that go against your opinion.

2. Whose ethical responsibility is it to inform students of the consequences of cheating? (who is responsible for teaching students not to cheat and when do they become responsible for themselves). Explain your answer with arguments in support of your position.

Your response should be about 300-350 words long.

Marking:
6 marks – for appropriate and thoughtful answers to discussion questions
10 marks – identify position on academic integrity (2 marks), identification of at least 2 factors in support of argument that are well explained (4 marks), identification of at least 1 factor that challenges position which the student challenges (4 marks).
10 marks – identify who is responsible for teaching about cheating (2 marks), identification of at least 2 factors in support of argument that are well explained (4 marks), identification of at least 1 factor that challenges position which the student challenges (4 marks).
Questions to reflect on:

1. Why do people cheat?

2. About when did you (or do ppl usually) learn that cheating is wrong?

3. Who taught you that cheating is wrong?

4. Why is cheating seen as wrong and honesty as so important?

5. What are short term pros and cons of cheating?

6. What are the long term pros and cons of cheating?