"The way I have to prevent plagiarism providentially coincides with good pedagogy for teaching comp or writing. In order to improve reading and writing skills one should do reading based writing assignments. That means on your essay assignment sheet you require that students include the reading that you have been doing in class for support for their writing assignment. Now that could lead to plagiarism if you are teaching a literature class and the student could find something on the book or short story you are teaching. In that case you need to devise a specific assignment that requires close readings of the text and has a focus that is not commonly done. The more specific the requirements the less likely the chance for plagiarized work."

"For most of my classes, the readings I assign are essays and would not be incorporated in any online essay that a student could find. Of course, he or she might get someone to do it for them, but rarely will a student have a friend that is good enough to do that more than once (after they find out how hard the essays are to do). I had a student do that once and on the next essay he reverted back to his 'normal' style and he failed the course (or dropped it)." (from a personal e-mail - 11/10/04)