

PLAGIARISM AGREEMENT

Plagiarism in a school environment is academic dishonesty – cheating. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and if discovered it will be dealt with severely. The consequences may include receiving a grade of “zero” on that assignment, referral to the counselor, referral to an Assistant Principal, failing the Senior Project, and/or expulsion from school.

In Webster’s Dictionary, *plagiarism* is defined as:

“To take (ideas, writing, etc.) from another and pass them off as one’s own.”

Directly copying someone else’s work and taking full credit for it is the most flagrant type of plagiarism. However, there are other, more subtle forms of plagiarism. For example:

1. Directly copying someone’s written work (research paper, bibliography, reflections, work logs, etc.) is plagiarism. Working together on the project hours is acceptable, as long as the actual written assignments are an individual effort.
2. Directly copying from a text is plagiarism. Ideas from existing sources must be credited (through the use of citations, bibliographies, footnotes, etc.).
3. Research papers follow the same rules of plagiarism. Facts and commonly accepted ideas can be used freely. However, all opinions, interpretations of facts, original ideas, charts, illustrations and images, and direct quotes must be credited or otherwise noted.
4. Using someone else’s data without giving credit or, worse, making up data to fit the expected answer are forms of plagiarism. It IS acceptable to present your own obviously erroneous data, to state the reasons that you feel the results should be disregarded, and then to present another student’s data, while making sure that the source is acknowledged.

The educational process is based on the principle that the less educated learn from the ideas of the more educated. Likewise, the creation of new knowledge is often based on the ideas and opinions of those that came before us. Therefore, students must use the ideas and opinions of others to build their own understanding of a concept. This is not plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when the use of someone else’s work is not acknowledged.

Credits: Originally prepared by Jack Kay, Iolani School

1. Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary
2. Excerpts from a statement from Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.

ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU TO COMPLETE:

After reading this agreement, access the Internet through a computer and go to the following website:

http://www.clark.edu/Library/iris/quiz/plagiarism_quiz_home.php

Read and follow the directions. Take the quiz and click “Submit.” Enter your email address, print-out a copy of your results and turn-in to Senior Project Coordinator (a passing score of 80% or higher is required).

I, _____, agree to not plagiarize or cheat on any portion of the Senior Project. If I am found plagiarizing, I will accept the consequences without question to be held responsible for my actions.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date