

Plagiarism Awareness Contract

Using someone else's ideas or phrasing and representing those ideas or phrasing as our own, either on purpose or through carelessness, is a serious offense known as plagiarism. Plagiarism is literary theft.

"Ideas or phrasing" includes written or spoken material, from whole papers and paragraphs to sentences, or even phrases, but it also includes statistics, lab results, art work, etc. "Someone else" can mean a professional source, such as a published writer or critic in a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or journal; an electronic resource such as material we discover on the World Wide Web; another student at our school or anywhere else; a paper-writing "service" (online or otherwise) which offers to sell written papers for a fee; a tutor; parent, sibling or other family member. Any time you use someone else's work, you must explicitly give him or her credit using standard methods of attribution, either in the body of your work or as a citation which refers to a Works Cited page or bibliography.

At Worland High School, students are expected to express their ideas in their own words, using the composition skills they have been taught over the years. Students are also, however, encouraged to research the words and ideas of others. If students choose to use those words or ideas in their own writings, they are expected to give credit (in the form of parenthetical documentation and/or bibliographic citation) and thereby avoid the act of plagiarizing. The temptation to plagiarize can be significant, especially with increased access to technological advances such as the internet and other computer-accessed sources of information. The consequences for plagiarizing, however, are not worth the risk.

Worland High School is interested in maintaining high ethical and academic standards. To this end, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class and/or (2) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarizing. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Do not:

- Submit anything orally or in writing as representing your own words or ideas, when, in fact, it does not
- Participate in the plagiarizing acts of others
- Lend your work to, or borrow work from, another student

Remember to:

- Provide formal credit for words or ideas taken from outside sources, or any source that is not you
- Provide formal credit for individuals who contribute to your work
- Use quotation marks when using another's exact words
- Always question yourself as to your literary ethics, and ask your teacher if you are in doubt as to the validity of your work.
- Be proud of the work you have accomplished and the knowledge you have gained, particularly that you have done it on your own

Whether or not a student intends to plagiarize will not be considered as part of the plagiarism discipline process. Worland High School students are responsible to give appropriate credit to ideas that belong to others.

I/We have read the above information, understand the ethical concepts of plagiarism, and agree to abide by the standards of Worland High School.

Consequences for plagiarism are as follows:

- First offense will result in a zero for the assignment.
- Second offense will result in a 50% for the quarter.
- Third offense will result in a zero for the semester.

Print student name: _____ Teacher: _____ Period: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____ Date: _____