

Policy: Plagiarism and Cheating

Plagiarism is using the language, ideas or thoughts of another in such a way that they appear to be a student's own. This should be avoided because it falsely represents the student's thinking, and it implies that students are incapable of arriving at their own ideas or thoughts and expressing them in their own language. As well, plagiarism affronts the person whose work is plagiarized. In short, plagiarism is a form of cheating. There are different forms of plagiarism:

- Copying from a published source.
- Purchasing a pre-written paper.
- Paying someone else to write a paper for you.
- Letting someone else write a paper for you.
- Submitting as your own, someone else's unpublished work, either with or without permission. You must always give credit (a footnote or citation of some sort) for three kinds of information:

“First, whenever you repeat someone else's exact words, the statement must be placed in quotation marks and the source must be acknowledge. This is true no matter how short the quote and no matter whether it was written or spoken.” (Forlini 1982)

“Second, whenever you summarize or reword the ideas in a single source, you must acknowledge the source of the ideas. If you read an article that describes the evolution of the automobile engine, or one that presents the argument that the loom was really the earliest form of the computer, you will need to identify your source in order to use the ideas.” (Forlini, 1982)*

“Third, whenever you refer to an individual fact or ideas that is not widely known, you will need an acknowledgment. You would not need to provide a source for the date of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, but you would need to footnote more specialized information about the bombing—how many battleships were sunk, how much damage was actually done to the naval base, how many casualties there were, and son on.” (Forlini, 1982)

There are several ways to appropriately credit the source of ideas, thoughts or language of others if students would like to incorporate them into their work. These will be discussed in English classes early in the year.

Classroom teachers should clarify the expectations for appropriate use and documentation of Internet research; however, students should be aware that the same general policies regarding plagiarism also apply to use of on-line materials.