

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

The following statement is abridged from pages 66-75 of Joseph Gibaldi's sixth edition *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (New York: MLA, 2003), the foremost American authority on scholarly writing in English literature and composition courses. It is the ultimate source of documentary procedure for English students.

2 Plagiarism

You have probably read or heard about the charge of plagiarism in disputes in the publishing and recording industries. You may also have had classroom discussions about student plagiarism. Derived from the Latin word *plagiarius* ("kidnapper"), *plagiarism* refers to a form of cheating that has been defined as "the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person's mind and presenting it as one's own" (Alexander Lindey, *Plagiarism and Originality* [New York: Harper, 1952] 2). Using another person's ideas, information, or expressions in your writing without acknowledging that person's work source is intellectual theft. Plagiarism is a moral and ethical offense . . . [and it] carries severe penalties, ranging from failure in a course to expulsion from school.

Often plagiarism in student writing is unintentional, as when an elementary school pupil, assigned to do a report on a certain topic, goes home and copies down, word for word, everything on the subject in an encyclopedia. Unfortunately, some students continue to use such "research methods" in high school and even in college without realizing that these practices constitute plagiarism. At all times during research and writing, guard against the possibility of inadvertent plagiarism by keeping careful notes that distinguish between your own musings and thoughts and the material you gather from others. Forms of plagiarism include the failure to give appropriate acknowledgement when repeating another's wording or particularly apt phrase, when paraphrasing another's argument, or when presenting another's line of thinking.

The MLA Style Manual (New York: MLA, 1985) likewise clearly outlines the dangers of plagiarism:

In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else, and to do so is considered a violation of the professional responsibility to acknowledge "academic debts" ("Statement on Professional Ethics," Policy Documents and Reports, 1984 ed., Washington: AAUP, 1984, 134).

The most blatant form of plagiarism is reproducing [or submitting] someone else's sentences, more or less verbatim, and presenting them as your own. Other forms including repeating another's particularly apt phrase without appropriate acknowledgement, paraphrasing someone else's argument as your own, introducing another's line of thinking as your own development of an idea, and failing to cite the source for a borrowed thesis or approach. The penalties for plagiarism can be severe, ranging from loss of respect to loss of degrees, tenure, or even employment. At all stages of research and writing, you must guard against the possibility of inadvertent plagiarism. . . .

Even without considering the penalties of plagiarism, the best scholars generously acknowledge their debts to others. By doing so they not only contribute to the historiography of scholarship but also help younger scholars understand the process of research and discovery.

If you are taking an English course at Carson-Newman, you *should* become acquainted with the procedures of research, composition, and documentation alluded to in this passage. If you have not taken such a class before, or if you did not master fully the procedures in such a course, it is important to know that when presenting book-supported writing you are held responsible for knowledge of and compliance with research policies and procedures.

For full guidance, see the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th edition, New York: 2003, or see *Writing at Carson-Newman College*, 3rd edition, Jefferson City, TN, 2002.

<p>Plagiarism: All work submitted in this class must be your own work, generated exclusively for this class, and not work intended for submission in another course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrasing) should be properly documented. Please refer to pages 96 of <i>Writing at Carson-Newman</i> or pages 65-75 of the <i>MLA Handbook</i>, 6th edition.</p>

Course: _____

Term: _____

Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

I have heard the teacher's discussion of plagiarism, and I understand that I must use research conventions to cite and clearly mark other people's ideas and words within my paper. I understand that plagiarism is an act of intellectual dishonesty. I understand it is academically unethical and unacceptable to do any of the following acts:

- ❖ To submit an essay written in whole or in part by another student as if it were my own.
- ❖ To download an essay from the internet, then quote or paraphrase from it, in whole or in part, without acknowledging the original source.
- ❖ To restate a clever phrase *verbatim* from another writer without acknowledging the source.
- ❖ To paraphrase part of another writer's work without acknowledging the source with a citation..
- ❖ To reproduce the substance of another writer's argument without acknowledging the source.
- ❖ To take work originally done for one instructor's assignment and re-submit it to another teacher.
- ❖ To cheat on tests or quizzes through the use of crib sheets, hidden notes, viewing another student's paper, revealing the answers on my own paper to another student, through verbal or textual communication, sign language, or other means of storing and communicating information, including electronic devices, recording devices, cellular telephones, headsets, and portable computers.
- ❖ To copy another student's homework and submit the work as if it were the product of my own labor.

I understand that the consequences for committing any of the previous acts of academic dishonesty can include a failing grade for the assignment or quiz, failure in the class as a whole, and even suspension from the college as in listed the "Academic Policies" section of the *Carson-Newman College Catalog*. I will not plagiarize or cheat.

Name (Print Legibly): _____

Date: _____

(Signature) _____

Course: _____

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