

Plagiarism Contract

Plagiarism can be defined as submitting another person's ideas, words, images or data without giving that person credit or proper acknowledgement. Plagiarism, a form of academic dishonesty, is tantamount to stealing and will not be tolerated. In order to clarify what constitutes plagiarism, you should be aware that you have committed plagiarism when you:

- use phrases, quotes or ideas not your own;
- paraphrase the work of another even though you may have changed the wording or syntax;
- use facts or data not considered common knowledge;
- submit a paper written for another class (academic dishonesty);
- submit a paper from an essay service or agency even though you may have paid for it (these papers are usually of low quality, so you probably did not get your money's worth);
- submit a paper by another person even though he or she may have given you permission to use it.

You should also note that plagiarism not only encompasses written work, but also computer data, research, musical scores, video programs and visual arts.

Plagiarism is a serious issue, especially in an academic environment. Teachers must be able to rely on the integrity of a student's work in order to maintain a climate for successful learning. Plagiarism reflects on character; therefore, you should diligently avoid inadvertent plagiarism. When you are unsure if acknowledgement is needed, ask your teacher. The penalties for blatant plagiarism include loss of all credit for the assignment with no opportunity to rewrite. This may significantly lower your final grade. Furthermore, plagiarism, a form of cheating, can result in suspension according to the Jefferson County Public Schools conduct code. We will discuss methods for avoiding plagiarism as the school year progresses.

I, _____, am aware of the serious nature of plagiarism and will not intentionally use or submit someone else's work without acknowledgement. Furthermore, I will not misrepresent someone else's work as my own.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

I have read this contract and understand the consequences of plagiarism.

Parent/Guardian _____ **Date** _____

Note: *You may be required to process major papers through Turnitin before submitting them.*