

# GHS English Department Plagiarism Policy

The GHS English Department expects students to understand that academic dishonesty and plagiarism is serious and is wrong in any form. To avoid disciplinary consequences, become informed about plagiarism.

## What is Academic Dishonesty?

Academic dishonesty is the act of using deception or breaking the rules to gain an unfair advantage. Germantown High School also deems the term “academic dishonesty” to include any intentional act that facilitates or enables another person’s academic dishonesty.

**Examples of Academic Dishonesty:** Turning in work that is not your own, copying someone’s answers or allowing someone to copy yours, using cheat sheets, buying work and claiming it to be your own, distributing copies of tests or answer sheets, use of any unauthorized communication device, etc.

## What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is the act of using another person’s work as your own without properly crediting that person. If the other person’s work is protected by copyright, then in certain circumstances plagiarism also may be copyright infringement.

**Examples of Plagiarism:** Turning in another person’s work in place of your own; summarizing or paraphrasing, or using the exact words of another person’s literary material, such as a book, essay, lab report, internet sites, encyclopedias, or other students’ assignments, or any other source without properly quoting and/or citing them.

## What are the Consequences?

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty are forms of cheating and will not be tolerated at Germantown High School. The best way to avoid plagiarism is to do your own work, take thorough notes, be diligent about keeping track of where specific information is found, and use proper citations (typically in MLA format). Plagiarizing an assignment in the English department can result in a combination of the following consequences:

- A zero on the assignment and office referral
- Failure of the course
- A phone call home
- Time in detention
- Refusal by faculty members to write letters of recommendation for the guilty student for college, scholarships, jobs, etc.

## Plagiarism Contract

I have read and understand the information on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. I understand that GHS and the English department have a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism and that if I plagiarize I will receive a 0 (zero) on the assignment and will be referred to the office to face further consequences as described in the student handbook.

Print Name Here: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_