



LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Principles of Intellectual Honesty

To maintain the intellectual and scholarly standards of the College and, equally important, the personal ethical standards of our students, it is essential that written assignments be a student's own work, just as is expected in examinations and class participation. The following generally recognized principles are designed to guide students in writing essays, papers, and reports, and to forestall acts of plagiarism, misrepresentation, and collusion, and the consequent disciplinary action:

Use of other persons' writings: The appropriation of the ideas or phrases of others, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism. This is an act of academic dishonesty.

Use of reference material: A student must often read extensively before being in a position to do any writing. A student may find passages in books, articles, and computerized sources such as websites that will be helpful in illustrating ideas. There is no objection to quoting such passages, provided the material is put within quotation marks and the source is indicated by footnotes or other means of showing authorship.

If a paper or essay consists largely of quotations, normally it will not be regarded as an original piece of work.

Paraphrasing, the appropriation of ideas with changed wording, is a form of plagiarism unless the source paraphrased is cited.

Use of other students' work: Submission of another student's work as one's own, with or without revision, is dishonest and subjects one to severe disciplinary action. The use of another person's notes or rough draft of a similar subject is considered equally dishonest.

Working together: Occasionally two or more students will consider it desirable and proper or will be assigned to engage in a joint investigation with individual or collaborative essays or reports as the finished products. Such a procedure is acceptable only when the instructor has consented to and approved the details of the collaboration. Collaboration beyond the limits established by the instructor is academic dishonesty.

Re-use of paper: Submission of the same work in more than one course is a violation of the intellectual standards of the College and is considered to be academic dishonesty.

A student who commits academic dishonesty is subject to a range of penalties, including suspension or expulsion.

Finally, the underlying principle is one of intellectual honesty. If a person is to have self-respect and the respect of others, all work must be her/his own.