**Plagiarism Contract**

McAuley note: this is not a fun conversation, but it is far better to have it now at the beginning rather than after a situation has occurred. This is not a witch hunt where teachers are looking to pass out a bunch of zeros or make wild “cheating” accusations. It is an educational tool to make sure we are all on the same page when it comes to original work. We will teach you how to cite and insert text evidence, paraphrase and summarize. We will also teach you how to cite both parenthetically and in a works cited or references page.

Plagiarism has always concerned teachers and administrators who want students’ work to repre­sent their own efforts and to reflect the outcomes of their learning. However, with the advent of the internet and easy access to almost limitless written material on every conceivable topic, suspi­cion of student plagiarism has begun to affect teachers at all levels, at times diverting them from the work of developing students’ writing, reading, and critical thinking abilities.

**What Is Plagiarism?**

***Definition:*** *In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledg­ing its source.*

This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers (or any other medium, i.e. podcasts, film, or sound recordings). Most current discussions of plagiarism fail to distinguish between:

1. submitting someone else’s text as one’s own or attempting to blur the line between one’s own ideas or words and those borrowed from another source, and
2. carelessly or inadequately citing ideas and words borrowed from another source (Council of Writing Program Administrators, 2009).

At Gulf Breeze High School, plagiarism, intentional or otherwise, is grounds for a grade of zero on the assignment. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. passing off another student’s work as one’s own
2. copying directly from a source without proper citation, as per APA/MLA guidelines
3. having improper documentation includes
   1. lack of in-text citations
   2. in-text citations that are inconsistent with the reference page
   3. improper identification of direct quotes (i.e. no quotation marks)
   4. failing to cite all secondary sources (More than 3 citation failures will result in a zero for the whole assignment.)
   5. Turning a former student’s paper as one’s own

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, understand the above definitions and consequences concerning copying others’ work and/or plagiarizing copyrighted material. I understand that I will receive a score of zero on any given assignment if I fail to comply. I will also be subject to disciplinary action by the dean and parent notification. I also understand that club sponsors, coaches, and career teachers may be notified, and they may or may not extend further consequences.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Council of Writing Program Administrators. (2009). *Defining and avoiding plagiarism: The WPA statement on*

# *best practices.* Retrieved August 6, 2019, from: http://www.wpacouncil.org/node/9