



St. Thomas More Academy

Honor Code & Anti Plagiarism Contract

STMA prizes integrity. Failures of integrity, including lying, cheating, and stealing, will not be tolerated. Failures of academic integrity--plagiarism and other forms of cheating--are always serious. All students are fully informed about expectations.

In order to avoid plagiarism, I understand the following:

1. Plagiarism is the use of someone else's ideas (including words, phrases, sentence structure, paper structure, images, etc.) and passing them off as my own.
2. Plagiarism is dishonest and the penalty for this lack of integrity is severe.
3. Plagiarism is avoided by properly paraphrasing someone else's ideas into my own words AND giving them credit. Plagiarism is also avoided by putting someone else's exact words into quotation marks AND giving them credit.
4. I may never reorder someone else's words and try to pass them off as paraphrased into my own words, even if I give the author credit. If I use the author's words, I must keep them exact in quotation marks.
5. St. Thomas More Academy requires the MLA (Modern Language Association) style for citing sources throughout and at the end of all of my papers.
6. I can find details about how to follow the MLA style format for my paper, citations, works cited page, etc. on the Purdue OWL Writing Lab website, among other places.
7. MLA style requires me to:
 - a. include in-text parenthetical citations in the following format: *This is an example of a sentence with paraphrasing (Smith 9). This is an example of a follow-up sentence comprised only of my own ideas.*
 - b. include a "Works Cited" page at the end of my paper, which is an alphabetized list of sources that have been cited throughout my paper. Each source listing must be formatted per MLA guidelines.

At the direction of STMA's Board of Directors:

- A first instance of founded academic disintegrity will result in the student receiving a zero on the assignment in question and a 1-day separation.
- A second instance of founded academic disintegrity will incur indefinite suspension and the student will be asked to find another placement.
- A first instance of lying or stealing will result in a 1-day separation and students will be required to make restitution in the form of an apology and/or replacement of the stolen item(s).
- A second instance of lying or stealing will incur indefinite suspension and students will be asked to find another placement.