

Legacy Christian Academy Plagiarism Policy

Definition:

Plagiarism is defined as “the false assumption of authorship; the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own; using another person’s ideas, information, or expressions without acknowledging that person’s work; passing off another person’s ideas, information, or expressions as your own to get a better grade or gain some other advantage” (MLA 7th Edition).

Application:

Intentional plagiarism includes copying the work of another student to submit as one’s own, copying words or ideas from a text without crediting the source, or copying from the Internet to submit as one’s own. Here are some specific examples: copying all or any part of a workbook page instead of working through it yourself; copying someone else’s essay (all or a part) to turn in as your own; for a research assignment, copying what someone else said and claiming it as your own idea; copying someone else’s homework, or having that person do the homework for you, and putting your name on the assignment for a grade. These are only examples; in short, plagiarism involves any incident when a student tries to get credit for the work of another person.

Philosophy:

As set out in the Family Handbook, Legacy Christian Academy places great importance on our Honor Code, and infractions involving the Honor Code are taken seriously as well. The act of plagiarism involves all three categories of the Honor Code:

- Lying: The student lies by claiming someone else’s work as his/her own.
- Cheating: The student cheats by not using his/her own God-given abilities to complete the assignment.
- Stealing: The student steals by taking ownership of work that does not belong to him/her.

When two or more students are involved in the plagiarism – one copying and the other allowing his/her work to be copied — the student allowing the copying is also in violation of the Honor Code as a complicit accessory.

Because plagiarism involves all categories of the Honor Code, the consequences of plagiarism should reflect the dishonesty of these actions.

Consequences:

Legacy’s policy is that infractions against the Honor Code accrue: “All offenses, committed while a student is enrolled in High School are cumulative and will be ... counted as a first, second, or third offense. Offenses committed as a Middle School student do not carry over to a student’s High School record.”

First Offense: The student will be counseled, the teacher will award a zero for the assignment, and the student will serve a detention. The teacher should write the SBR and submit it to the Dean of Students for the assigning of detention. The Dean of Students may expand the penalty depending on the circumstances. At the middle school level only, teachers have the option of allowing the student to come to enrichment to correctly complete the assignment in the teacher's presence for a maximum grade of 70%.

Second Offense and successive offenses: The student will be counseled, the teacher will award a zero for the assignment, and the student will serve Saturday School. The teacher should write the SBR and submit it to the Dean of Students for the assigning of Saturday School. The Dean of Students may expand the penalty depending on the circumstances. At the second and successive offenses, there is no option at the middle school level for completing the assignment correctly for a reduced grade.