

# Are You Cheating Yourself?

What is cheating and why should you care?



# ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

copying

ripping off

scamming

stealing

breaking the rules

plagiarising

*No one can cheat you out of ultimate success but yourself.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

# What is cheating?

“Fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment.”

The Center for Student Conduct, University of California at Berkeley.

# **You have probably cheated if:**

- 1) You had help that you wouldn't want your teacher to know about.**
- 2) You tried to hide what you were doing.**
- 3) You had to think about whether or not you were cheating.**

# What are examples of cheating?

- Copying from others on any assignment.
- Communicating answers with someone during a test or quiz.
- Preprogramming a calculator to contain answers.
- Using unauthorized materials, prepared answers, written notes, or concealed information.
- Allowing others to do an assignment for you.
- Submission of the same assignment for more than one course without prior approval of your teacher.
- Taking an exam for another person or having someone take an exam for you.



# Is it cheating?

Maddy sits in class on her phone while Kiara completes an assignment. Maddy then asks for Kiara's paper and completes the assignment by copying her friend. The assignment is not for a "grade".

This is cheating! Even if the assignment is not graded copying is not ok. You are cheating yourself because you will not learn the material for the test.

# Is it cheating?

Ashley and Jake are working on their study guide before a test. Jake doesn't have his notebook organized so he decides to wait until Ashley is done with her study guide. He then takes Ashley's study guide and copies the words. He believes this is not cheating because it is just a bunch of definitions.

This is cheating! Ashley had to take the time to find the definitions in her notebook. It is not fair to her that Jake did not have to also do this.



# Is it cheating?

Edgar and Jose are working on their study guide before a test. Edgar can't find a few words in his notebook so he asks Jose if he knows what the words mean. He then writes down what Jose says for the definitions of those words.

This is not cheating! It is perfectly fine to ask peers for help. (its also a good idea to look the words up yourself to make sure Jose is correct).



# Is it cheating?

Chris is still working on his test while others have already turned their tests in. Chris goes to turn his test in and sees that others have put a different answer for number 10. He takes his test back to his seat and changes his answer.

This is cheating! Do I really need to explain it?

# Is it cheating?

Alma, Maria, and April are working together on a group project. Maria and April complete all of the project and Alma does nothing (or very little). They turn the project in and Alma gets credit

This is cheating! If Alma did nothing then she should not get a grade. Maria and April should let their teacher know that this happened. (Its better if Alma is the one to let the teacher know herself)

# Is it cheating?

The teacher gives the class a worksheet to complete for homework. Someone tells Stella that the worksheet answers are all online. She goes home and completes the worksheet on her own, and then decides to look at the answers online to check her work.

This is not cheating because Stella did the work before she looked at the worksheet. It would be cheating if she had copied the answers before doing the work, which would not help her to learn the content

# Who Cares?

**Teachers**

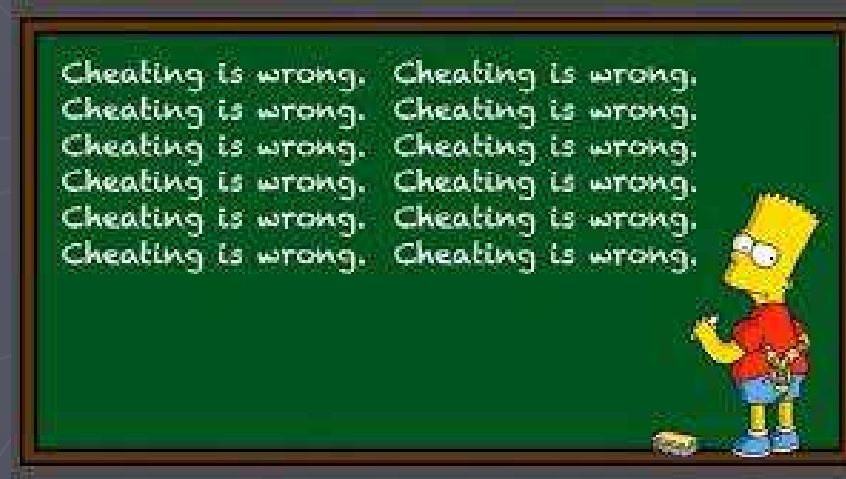
**Parents**

**Students**

**Employers**

# Why should I care?

- 1) You are at school to learn. If you copy someone else's work you are not learning what you need to be successful.
- 2) People who cheat in high school are more likely to cheat later in life when the consequences are much more severe. (Getting kicked out of college)
- 3) Cheating does not allow you to feel proud of your accomplishments, which is important to mental health.



# Is this Important?

1. Your architect cheated his way through math class. Will your new home be safe?
2. Your lawyer paid for a copy of the bar exam to study. Will the contract she wrote for you stand up in court?
3. The doctor who is about to perform surgery on you or your loved one had another person take tests for him during medical school?

# Real Life Examples



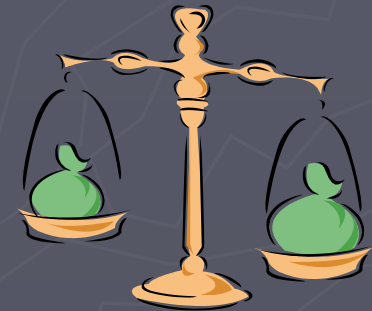
- 1) Lance Armstrong: stripped of his 7 Tour de France titles because he used performance-enhancing drugs.
- 2) New Jersey valedictorian denied her seat as a Harvard freshman when it was discovered she plagiarized in a local newspaper.
- 3) Bernie Madoff investment fraud. Sentenced to 150 years in prison. Lost \$50 billion of his investors money.



# What are possible consequences for me?

- “0” on the assignment
- Parent notification
- Referral to administrators
- Suspension or dismissal from school activities--sports and extracurricular
- Note on student record
- Loss of reputation among the school community (You need recommendations from teachers for college/jobs!)

**Is it worth  
the risk?**



# Excuses

Everyone does it!

It's okay if  
I don't get caught!

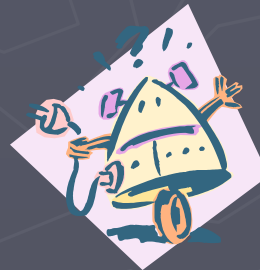
This assignment  
was BORING!

I was too busy to  
write that paper!  
(Job, big game, too much homework!)

Its ok if its  
not a test!

My teachers  
expect  
too much!

My parents  
expect "A"s!



# How do I make sure I don't cheat?

- ▶ Don't look for 'short cuts'
- ▶ Give yourself time to complete your own work
- ▶ Use your class time wisely!
- ▶ Be confident in the value of your own ideas
- ▶ Ask for assistance from your teacher

# Remember...

- ▶ Teachers are here to help you to learn
- ▶ You are here to learn so you can be successful after high school
- ▶ If you don't understand the assignment, the instructions or the expectations, ask for help!