**Plagiarism Agreement**

1) I understand that:

* Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas in your own writing, without clearly identifying those words or ideas as the work of another person.
* Plagiarism violates Towson’s Academic Integrity Policy and is fundamentally destructive to the academic enterprise. It is one of the most serious academic violations a student can commit. Plagiarism is a form of cheating and a form of lying.
* Students who are caught plagiarizing in this class will receive an F grade for the entire course, and the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, which may assess additional penalties up to and including expulsion.
* Unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism and carries the same penalty. It is the academic equivalent of criminal negligence. In this class, offenses will be judged primarily by the documented severity of the plagiarism itself, not on the student’s intentions.
* As a student, I am morally responsible for making sure I understand how to avoid plagiarism. If I do not fully understand, it is my responsibility to ask the professor or the Writing Center for help before turning in an assignment.

2) I promise not to plagiarize.

Print Name:

Sign Name:

Course and Section Number:

Date:

**Helpful strategies for staying out of trouble:**

* Many students plagiarize when they feel overwhelmed by too much work. The right way to deal with this situation is to tell your professor and ask for help.
* When surfing the internet looking for help or inspiration with your paper, keep a record of every URL you visit. Put these in a list of Works Consulted.
* Any time you quote or paraphrase material, or even just write down an idea from a website or other source, make a note of where that material came from. Never mix up notes on your own ideas with your notes on other people’s work.
* When in doubt as to whether a citation is necessary (e.g. whether a piece of information is “common knowledge”), it is always safer to cite.

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