



Welcome to Watertown Public Schools



Watertown High School English Department Plagiarism and Appropriate Sources

Please read the document below.

**Then sign page 2 and return to your English teacher.
Student and parent/guardian signatures are required.**

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the act of presenting someone else's words and/or ideas as your own, even if done unintentionally. Any student who quotes directly from any source or makes use of an idea from any source and does not credit the author of that source, who copies part or all of the work of another student, or who allows part or all of his/her work to be copied by another student, will be considered to have plagiarized. Information taken from the Internet or other electronic media without crediting the source is also a form of plagiarism. Students must credit all sources that provide useful information and enclose any word or words directly taken from a source within quotation marks. Failure to do so is a dishonorable act; academic theft in an academic institution is a serious matter and, as such, has serious consequences. A student found guilty of plagiarism may receive a grade of zero on the project, may have his course level lowered, and may also forfeit membership in the National Honor and/or Cum Laude Society. Other consequences, such as a letter of reprimand in the student's file, exclusion from consideration for academic honors, or notations on college recommendations may also follow from an incidence of plagiarism.

Students and faculty should follow guidelines consistent with those of the Modern Language Association (MLA) (such as the *MLA Guide to Documentation*), our single school-wide standard. These guidelines are available from classroom teachers and departments, the school library, as well as on the Watertown High School Library's web page (<http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/whs/library/lib/citations.html>).

Appropriate Academic Sources

Sources that sell papers, summarize novels or plays chapter by chapter, or condense plot, character descriptions or themes (e.g. SparkNotes, PinkMonkey, BookRags) are unacceptable for research purposes. Do not consult them. The only circumstance under which such sources may be used is if they are part of an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

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Signature Page

We have read and understood the English Department policies on plagiarism and appropriate academic sources.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s) _____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Please return this page to your English teacher.