# Pledge of Academic Honesty

All the work I do for this class and all my classes will be entirely and completely my own. This means I will be the sole author of it. This also means that as far as I know, these will *not* be the words, sentences, and paragraphs of anyone else, unless I am directly quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing the work of someone else.

If I am quoting someone directly, I will do *all* of the following things:

1. I will put the text I am copying from another source in quotation marks.
2. I will provide some context for the quotation, as in, “Randall (2005) further notes that failure is not an option, a point she makes rather bluntly when she says, ‘To fail here is to fall on an unforgiving sword.’ (p. 234).”
3. I will provide an APA-formatted citation, including page number, within the paragraph, as in the above example.
4. I will provide an APA-formatted reference at the end of the work I am producing, to provide full credit to the authors of the work I am citing.
5. I will quote only the text I need to quote to make my point. I will be sure to keep my quotations very short. I will also use very few quotations (no more than one quotation for every 10 pages of text is a good guideline to follow). I agree that using too many quotations lets someone else write my work.

If I paraphrase or summarize work from another source, I will always cite it both within the text itself and as a reference at the end of my work (please see APA rules for more detail).

If I paraphrase or summarize, I will use words other than the words I am paraphrasing, and I will change the basic sentence structure. I will also keep in mind when paraphrasing that changing a few words here and there is insufficient; if I do that, then my professor will consider it the same as if I just copied someone else’s work verbatim and represented it as my own.

If I use any part of someone else’s work in a way that violates any of the above statements, then I understand that I will be plagiarizing, a *very serious* act of academic dishonesty per Capella University’s policies.

If any professor discovers this act of academic dishonesty, I acknowledge that the professor will:

1. E-mail me via an appropriate private email account to let me know that she discovered that I committed an act of academic dishonesty.
2. If a grade or score is given, give me a zero on the work in which I plagiarized.
3. File an official report with Capella. If this happens only once and the professor believes I understand the infraction, no further action will be taken and the report will remain on file in case of another incident. Further incidents will result in the report being included in action from the University.

If I have any questions about this pledge, I will contact my professor prior to signing it. By typing my full name below, I understand and agree to comply with all of the above rules from this day on, all of which are consistent with Capella University’s academic policies.

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| --- | --- |
| Please type your name here: |  |
| Today’s date: |  |

Credits: Thanks to Dr. Susanna Reynolds, originator of this pledge.