

Alternatives to Cheating & Plagiarism

No student needs to cheat or plagiarize. The Sidney Community Schools provide numerous support services for students to help them achieve success. Students who seek appropriate help when needed will not need to cheat or plagiarize.

1. Know what constitutes cheating and/or plagiarism and what the consequences may be.
2. Understand that tolerating cheating allows your less honest peers to gain an unfair advantage.
3. Be prepared. Try to keep a realistic schedule balancing your academic, social, and personal life.
4. Make certain you understand your assignments and the grading assessment that will be used. If you have questions, talk to your teacher. Do not rely on a classmate for clarification or information.
5. Assignments should be considered individual unless the teacher instructs you otherwise.
6. Keep current on assignments. Having to do a lot of catch-up work right before a test or a paper is due will cause your performance to suffer.
7. Be organized. Having orderly, easily accessible class notes will save time and anxiety when studying or writing a paper.
8. If you study for a test with a classmate, make sure you do not sit near each other during the test since your responses and mistakes may be similar.
9. Do not read or scan someone else's paper before writing your own. Some of the ideas in the other paper may be ideas you would have used, but you will now have to give credit for those ideas to the other person whose paper you read.
10. If, for any reason, you use another person's ideas, words, or solutions, cite that person as a source for your paper or project.
11. Know how to correctly cite sources, including Internet sources. Ask your teacher what citation format he/she wants you to use.
12. Ask your teacher specifically what resources are appropriate for each assignment and which are not.
13. Ask the teacher for guidelines for tutors and mentors so they can help you complete your assignment without doing the work for you.
14. Ask your teacher what the guidelines are for group work and how to document the involvement of each individual in the group.
15. Use all support available to you. For help needed beyond the classroom, see your teacher, other teachers in the school, a peer tutor, a parent or other adult.