

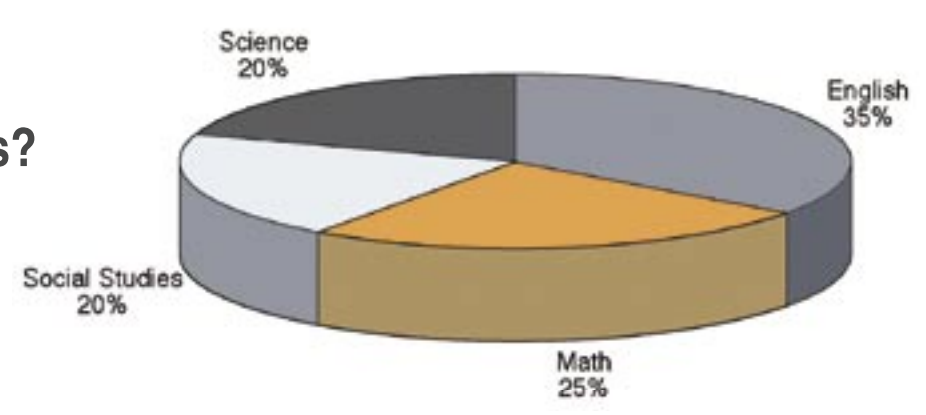
# Who cheats at ACHS?

Students of all ages and grade levels cheat. Each has their own reason, whether it be lack of time, stress, or just laziness. A poll of 100 random ACHS reveals the low-down on cheating in school.

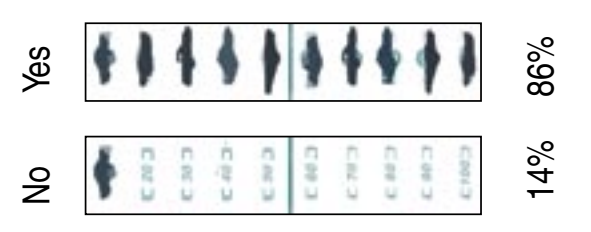
Have **you** ever plagiarized?



What class is the easiest to **cheat** in?



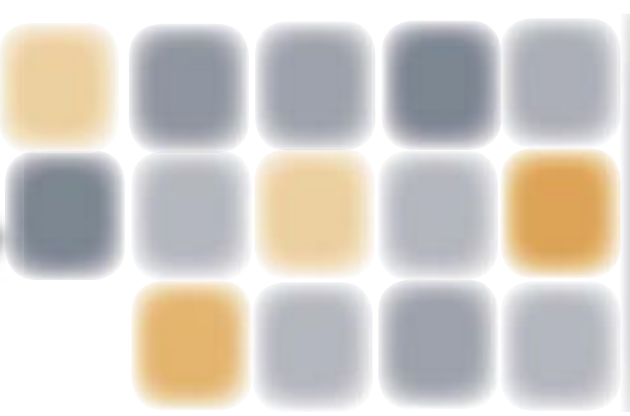
Do you **know** someone who has?



## Plagiarism

*n* 1: a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work 2: the act of plagiarizing; taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own

ACHS policy on cheating: any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead the teacher and/or school administration in arriving at an honest evaluation of learning. Cheating includes aiding other students in cheating, such as permitting another student to copy the student's homework, paper, project, laboratory report, take home examination, the use of translation devices or programs, etc. for which credit is given.



# Cheating the System

One out of every two students plagiarize some form of work, and about one in 50 actually get caught, according to a recent poll. While this is not nation-wide, or even state-wide, the increase from past years is substantial. These numbers represent only the

number of students who plagiarize, or have plagiarized in some way, shape, or form here at Antioch Community High School. One ACHS senior said, "Heck yeah, I've plagiarized and a lot of my friends have too. I'm actually kind of surprised at how many people have plagiarized that haven't gotten caught."

Plagiarism and cheating has recently been spreading like wildfire among students across the country. Whether it be copying some information off of the internet, or purchasing a paper from "paper mills" where students pay money for already written papers, many students have fallen into the trap. Web sites such as sparknotes.com provide summaries of books and are used as a cheat sheet for assignments and tests. Another web site is plagiarism.com which helps cheaters to prevent getting caught plagiarizing. For a fee, the web site gives you a crash course on how to avoid getting caught cheating and, essentially, how to get away with stealing. Other web sites such as screwschool.com sell papers to students for a fee.

A national survey from the Center for Academic Integrity shows that 75% of college students have admitted to some form of cheating. The Center for Academic Integrity also surveyed college students in 2001 showing that 41% or those who took part in the survey and admitted to cutting and pasting information off the internet and claiming it as their own, which was up from 10% in 1999.

In order to avoid the plagiarism trap, here are a few tips with the help of Purdue university:

- 1 Make sure to show that you've done the work by researching but

making sure to write something new and original.

- 2 Appeal to experts and authorities such as teachers or professors, but make sure to improve upon or disagree with them.

- 3 You can improve your English by mimicking what you read and hear; however make sure that your using you own voice by using your own word and expressions

- 4 Make sure to give credit when necessary, but make sure to make a significant contribution by yourself.

Plagiarism seems to be a very common form of cheating in high school. Many students feel the need to plagiarize material for various reasons. Regardless of their reasons, their acts of plagiarism are illegal and unjustified.

In a poll of 100 ACHS students 50% indicated that they had plagiarized before, and 36% had ultimately gotten away with it. The figures also indicated that using other people's work for school assignments is fairly routine, but faculty members bristle at the notion that plagiarism is no big deal.

There are many reasons why a student would plagiarize. A few reasons are being lazy, lack of time, or even lack of motivation.

"Students that plagiarize are lazy and don't want to do the work," said ACHS English teacher Angela Balanag.

There is no tolerance for plagiarism from teachers at ACHS. The school board, faculty, and administration alike take this very seriously and are against all forms of plagiarism.

Other teachers share Balanag's opinion of plagiarism in the classroom. The objective of going to school and getting an education is to learn and develop your own style of writing to express the new knowledge you are acquiring. Also, learning in school prepares you for your adult life. Plagiarizing material in school defeats the purpose of learning.

"When you plagiarize you are not learning; you are cheating yourself," said ACHS social studies teacher Katherine Olson.

Balanag also indicated when a student plagiarizes material they not only affect their grade, they affect their inner-self.

"It [plagiarism] affects your character as a human being," said Balanag, indicating the moral responsibility that a student throws away by cheating.

While plagiarism is a more than common practice, it doesn't run rampant throughout classrooms. Some teachers will create various versions of a multiple choice test; this makes it difficult for students

to copy off each other. Others require their students to spread out throughout the classroom, away from wandering eyes. However, preventing plagiarism is more difficult than preventing copying amongst students.

One outlet that teachers can turn to is on the internet. There are certain web sites that teachers can use to find out if a student has used someone else's work and turned it in as their own by searching worldwide databases. Turnitin.com is one web site teachers use. Any registered teacher with the web site can go to the web site and submit the student's work. The web site will then search the Internet to see if it matches any already published material.

Search engines, like Google, can also be used to search for published material. Users can type in one sentence from the student's work, and Google will bring up the results.

Despite plagiarizing being illegal, students do not take the matter seriously and will continue to plagiarize, unaware of what the consequences may be.

"Plagiarizing is no different than stealing from your neighbor," said ACHS Social Studies teacher Don Zeman.

With new methods to stop and detect plagiarism being used today, teachers are against all forms of plagiarism and feel that students are

not learning when they plagiarize to complete class assignments.

Like with all crime, there are consequences that follow. ACHS is no different when it comes down to cheating. ACHS faculty and dean's of students try their best to enforce this kind of rule-breaking.

"At no time do you use someone else's work and turn it in as your own," said ACHS dean of student's Kathy Kelly. "You have to give credit where the credit is due."

Catching potential plagiarizers seems to have come down to using modern technology as an asset. Teachers have a plethora of web sites they can access to expose

those who choose to hide behind others work.

"If a teacher takes the time to use technology, they can easily catch a plagiarizing student. More and more students are going to get caught because of [technology]," said Kelly.

Plagiarism is one of the most common offenses to come through the dean's office. Plagiarism has no limits when it comes down to claiming another's work as your own. When the internet, magazines, books, and other publications are factored in, a student has a seemingly infinite arsenal of things to copy and claim.



What class do **you** cheat in the most?

## The Top 3

1. Math
2. English
3. Spanish



Scantrons are the most common test forms that students cheat on. Instead of full answers, students can copy a peer's pattern of filled-in bubbles.