

## Monterey Peninsula College English Department Plagiarism Policy

“Derived from the Latin word *plagiarius* (‘kidnapper’ and also ‘plagiarist’ in the modern sense), plagiarism is defined by Alexander Lindley as ‘the false assumption of authorship; the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own’ (Plagiarism and Originality, New York: Harper, 1952, p. 2). Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another’s sentences as your own, paraphrasing someone else’s argument as your own, or even presenting someone else’s line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own. In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from another.

Although a writer may use another person’s words and thoughts, they must be acknowledged as such” (MLA Handbook, 1977). Plagiarism is grounds for expulsion. In the event of instructor leniency, a student may be dropped from the class and receive a “W” before the final drop date or an “F” after that date. The instructor may issue a “0”, “NC”, or “F” for the work in which the plagiarism appears, or the instructor may issue a written warning, or the instructor may refer the student to the Vice President for Student Services for disciplinary action.

**Beth’s policy:** On the first instance of plagiarism or cheating, the student receives a warning. On the second instance, I will drop you from the class.