



Plagiarism and Unauthorized Collaboration

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District defines plagiarism as follows:

The use of another's words, ideas, or creative productions without assigning credit to the original source.

To plagiarize is to take ideas or words of another person and pass them off as one's own. In short, it is stealing something intangible rather than an object. Obviously, it is not necessary to state the source of well-known or easily verifiable facts. But students are expected to acknowledge the sources of ideas and expressions they use in their written work, whether those expressions are quoted directly or paraphrased. To provide adequate documentation is not only an indication of academic honesty, but also a courtesy which enables the reader to consult your sources with ease. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

It is also considered plagiarism and/or cheating if a student submits a paper written in whole or in part by someone other than themselves or copies the answer or answers of another student in any test, examination, or assignment.

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District defines unauthorized collaboration as follows:

Collaborating with students, non-students, and artificial intelligence in a manner not deemed appropriate by your teacher.

With access to collaborative tools like Microsoft Office 365 and Google for Education, students have the ability to share and collaborate on content with each other. In addition, with the onset of open artificial intelligence platforms (Open AI), and a wide range of information from the internet, students have access to a plethora of information and content. It is considered unauthorized collaboration when students utilize these collaborative tools outside the scope and directions set forth by the teacher for an assignment or test. Unauthorized collaboration will be deemed plagiarism and appropriate consequences assigned.

References:

BP 5131 – Conduct

BP 6163.4 – Student Use of Technology

AR 6163.4 – Student Use of Technology

Student Acceptable Use Agreement