

When Academic Integrity is Grey  
Faculty Brown Bag, November 20, 2008  
K-State Honor and Integrity System

Many people have a variety of ideas about severity of different issues of academic integrity. K-State Honor and Integrity seeks to be a process that the K-State community can use to resolve concerns about academic integrity; however, this system is made of 54 individuals with individual views and ideas about academic integrity. Although all want to uphold a level of honor and integrity, the determined level of responsibility and severity of sanctions can differ with each person involved.

When is academic integrity a black/white issue and when is there grey? Secondly, are there various shades of grey? As you work with students, you must be aware of your own ideas on academic integrity and be able to convey those thoughts and ideas to your students.

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*Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am of what is true. ~Robert Brault*

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*Some key questions*

Do you have a “rule” about how many words in sequence determine plagiarism?

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*There is no twilight zone of honesty in business. A thing is right or it's wrong. It's black or it's white. ~John F. Dodge*

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If your policy is individual work, where do tutors fall into the mix? How do you describe the difference to your students?

When should a potential plagiarism situation be a learning experience or when should it be an honor pledge violation?

What happens when a hearing panel decides something different from the violation report?

If I chose to have an educational moment with a student, how can I be sure that a student is not having “educational moments” in all of their classes?

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*Those who think it is permissible to tell white lies soon grow color--blind.  
-- Austin O'Malley*

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What assumptions of your students do you bring into the classroom? (Do you assume someone has already covered citation, the honor pledge, unauthorized collaboration, etc.?)

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*I must respect the opinions of others even if I disagree with them. ~Herbert Henry Leathem*

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