

Honor Board Penalty Prompts

Every essay must be at least five pages in length, and any sources must be properly cited under MLA formatting rules. Please refer to the [Essay Manual](#) for further details on requirements.

General Prompts

1. If you were in charge of Stevens, what five initiatives would you start to promote and ensure academic integrity on campus? Clearly justify each response.
2. Choose a topic that is being actively discussed in the media and discuss its ethical ramifications.
3. Who is your role model? Discuss, citing specific instances, how that role model lived an ethical life and what traits he or she possessed which you admire most.
4. The five core values of Stevens Institute of Technology are: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. For each core value provide one example of how you have shown that value in the past and generate a plan to better incorporate each value into your future life.
5. Expand on the following statement and apply it to yourself: “A student’s adherence to academic integrity is a reflection on their personal values.”
6. The Honor System is reliant on the mindset that every student will encourage academic excellence and academic integrity amongst his peers. Name and elaborate upon three ways you will help other students achieve more while at Stevens.
7. Many students sign the Honor System Pledge before they take a test in anticipation that they will not cheat. Evaluate whether or not doing this undermines the purpose of the pledge.
8. Compared to other universities, the Stevens Honor Board gives more lenient penalties to students who are found to violate the Honor System. Do you feel assigning a harsher penalty is necessary for students to learn from their mistakes?
9. Stevens has the oldest student-run Honor System at an engineering school in the country. Expound on the aspect of our Honor System you find most significant.
10. Albert Einstein wrote “Try to become not a man of success, but try rather to become a man of value.” Discuss your reasons for why keeping your integrity is a precondition to learning.
11. Society often quantitatively ranks people according to various metrics: SAT scores, grade-point-averages, et cetera. Analyze why no rank is worth being dishonorable.
12. Integrity is defined as both the “adherence to ethical principles” and “the state of being whole.” Explore how both definitions are applicable when considering academic integrity at Stevens.
13. Stevens is a small university, and thus a student could easily be friendly with the majority of his classmates. Discover some solutions to encourage students to report cases of cheating even where they know the accused.

Plagiarism / Failure to Cite

14. Write a carefully researched essay on any ethics philosopher or philosophy (e.g., Socrates or Meta-Ethics) properly citing and footnoting at least 4 sources.
15. Why is citing sources an important part of research? Discuss some real-world implications of not properly citing sources.

Knowledge of a Violation of the Honor System without reporting it

16. Why is it important to ensure that all students uphold the Honor System? Consider this on several levels, including the perception of Stevens in the business community, life on campus, and in the classroom.
17. How does not reporting an Honor System violation reflect on one's academic integrity? Provide some scenarios when it is tempting to not report a violation and why it is better in the long run to use integrity and responsibility in such situations.

Collaborating outside of the confines of the syllabus

18. When does collaborating become cheating? Suggest several ways for professors to make this distinction clearer and prevent this violation in the future. Also provide examples of when collaborating is beneficial to students and when it is detrimental.
19. Homework is a necessary and critical component for grasping the material in a difficult class. Discuss some ideas as to why a professor would not want collaboration on homework.
20. Stevens' broad-based curriculum is designed so a student can perform a variety of jobs. With that in mind, list reasons why it is important for every student to submit his or her own assignment.

Giving/Receiving unauthorized

21. Develop at least three well-thought-out scenarios where a student is affected in the future by not properly studying and learning the materials in a class.
22. Explore the pros and cons of having someone help you –OR– helping someone on an assignment or test. How does it advantage each of you, and how does it disadvantage each of you? Develop a final statement and plan of what you will do in the future if you are not properly prepared for a test or if someone asks you for aid.

Second Violation

23. Explain what you perceive to be wrong with the Honor System and how we could better publicize its stipulations to keep students from accumulating multiple offenses. Suggest and fully develop several ideas for how the system can be improved.

Breach of Confidentiality

24. *This essay will only be read by the Advisor to the Honor Board and the Chairman of the Stevens Honor Board, both of whom will hold any and all material contained within strictly confidential.* Write about something that you would never want your fellow students to find out and the effects of what would happen if it were found out.

Violating Exam Room Conditions

25. Professors often assume that students know certain items – phones in particular – are not permitted for exams, but fail to print a firm statement on the exam explaining the technology policy. Is it fair for professors to assume students will know their policy, or should professors be at fault if the policy is not printed? Develop a well formulated argument explaining where the responsibility lies in these situations.