

Our school has a problem with integrity. An incident I remember from last school year was during AP World History, we all had taken a test on AP Classroom when the next day, we were informed someone from either of the two periods had cheated on the test and was caught. Both periods' grades were withheld until that person admitted to cheating. While that was a minor incident that was ultimately resolved, it stuck with me especially considering how long it felt for the person to admit to it. How could something like this happen despite us taking a class that was preparing us for college and for how long did this person do this? Were there other students cheating too? There were so many questions swirling in my head but I ultimately moved on from the incident. But now, thinking back on it, what if we, as a student body had an enforced honor code, rather than the loose one we have, that we all upheld? Would that incident ever have occurred? While we may be high school students, I think we could appreciate establishing a renewed honor code- one that isn't too heavy- as a way to prepare all of us for college and the real world now rather than later when this incident would no longer be isolated.

Now how could we begin to establish a stricter honor code? We could take a similar approach to Lawrence Academy described in Source B. Using the idea of a pledge at the start of each term to affirm we, the students, understand the honor code, could be useful to engrave it into the back of our minds that we should take our honor as students seriously; After all, we will soon be adults who might head into college, where academic integrity is everything especially if we're serious about our major of choice, which will soon become our career. Taking this approach might not stick to many of us, since we are teenagers who wish to spend our youth having fun and not sticking to the rules, but eventually, we could, at the bare minimum, bring a culture of having

academic integrity, especially against cheating and plagiarism, which is currently plaguing many high school students with the introduction of AI chatbots that can write our essays for us.

Now, as far as I know, we have a very loose honor code, which we call social contracts, which is more of a behavioral contract rather than a true honor code, that varies between each class. I also know that my classes don't exactly have any clauses about being honest, whether it's about how we completed our assignments or reporting any cheating that occurs during tests. This leads to Source C, which talks about two types of students, the "honest" and "cheater" types. As high school students, better known as teenagers, with the environment we've built, we don't like reporting classmates out of fear of being called a snitch which can lead to people actively avoiding you because of that label. This is likely why the "cheater" types can feel comfortable cheating in our school, like the AP World History schoolmate. They knew that no one in the class would risk that label and while this is speculation and also a hypothetical situation as this could happen with any other student in our school, they might have cheated on other assignments as well and let their friends know they wouldn't get caught if they did the same, which is what turns the once "honest" into "cheater" types, thus it becomes a plague. To further prove that could happen, taking a look at the data Source E presents is key. The data involving 275 university student responses shows that 40% of survey takers had violated the honor code and hadn't been caught and only 8% of students are comfortable with reporting cheating. Those numbers are quite significant in a negative way, and while the honor code is quite vague as we do not know this university's honor code, one of the most likely codes would be against cheating and it's one of the easiest violations, as cheating in itself is a spectrum. Then the low 8% is quite mind-boggling especially with this being a university survey, and while in our school, the

percentage might be higher, there are no guarantees that it is higher as perhaps it's lower because we don't have a fallback to an honor code that can become a standard to save us from the scorning of our peers for being a "snitch".

Honor codes can become powerful and useful for students to later carry on those values and save them from potential trouble, especially in this age of AI, which allows many students to cheat a lot easier because the simple type of a prompt will give them the answer.