

Course Basics, Part IV -- Public Speaking and the University Honor Code

Honesty in your academic work makes you a trustworthy member of the class and also builds ethical habits for your professional career. Thoroughly review the following sections about the University Honor System and plagiarism to familiarize yourself with the possible problems.

University Honor System

As a participant in this class, you are bound by the Virginia Tech Honor System. The honor code will be strictly enforced in this course. All assignments submitted shall be considered graded work. All aspects of your coursework--online quizzes, homework, speech content, and in-class work--are covered by the honor system.

Please review the following statement about the Honor Code from the Virginia Tech Undergraduate Honor System (found at <http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>) The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

“As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic misconduct. This listing is not, however, exclusive of other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute academic misconduct. Clarification is provided for each definition with some examples of prohibited behaviors in the Undergraduate Honor Code Manual located at <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

A. CHEATING

Cheating includes the intentional use of unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise, or attempts thereof.

B. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, programming, computer code, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing off the same as one's own original work, or attempts thereof.

C. FALSIFICATION

Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any element of one's academic work, or attempts thereof.

D. FABRICATION

Fabrication includes making up data and results, and recording or reporting them, or submitting fabricated documents, or attempts thereof.

E. MULTIPLE SUBMISSION

Multiple submission involves the submission for credit—without authorization of the instructor receiving the work—of substantial portions of any work (including oral reports) previously submitted for credit at any academic institution, or attempts thereof.

F. COMPLICITY

Complicity includes intentionally helping another to engage in an act of academic misconduct, or attempts thereof.

G. VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENTAL, PROGRAM, COURSE, OR FACULTY RULES

The violation of any University, College, Departmental, Program, Course, or Faculty Rules relating to academic matters that may lead to an unfair academic advantage by the student violating the rule(s).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism may take many forms, each of which is unacceptable, according to the standards of academic honesty as governed by the Virginia Tech Honor System. Any written or oral work you present as your own for this class should be completely your own--content, organization, language choices, visuals--unless you **orally** cite sources.

Resources - Plagiarism and Consequences

- O'Hair, Chapter 13
- Virginia Tech Library:
<http://www.lib.vt.edu/help/plagiarism.html>
- University Honor System website: <http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

Potential Plagiarism Problems -- The following examples--adapted from a list by Dr. Rachel Holloway, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences--illustrate areas in which students might make ethical errors with their oral or written presentations. This list identifies the most frequent of such dishonest behaviors:

1. Representation of someone else's words or ideas without acknowledgment of the original source -- This includes exact quotation, paraphrase of ideas, duplication of organizational design, recounting of narratives, or other content, without appropriate attribution. A student may avoid plagiarism by citing the source of the materials in the speech performance. Simply including the sources on a bibliography without clear citation in the speech or paper misrepresents the origin of the ideas/materials to the immediate audience and would constitute plagiarism. Carefully document your sources!

2. Representation of visual or graphic materials as one's own work when they are duplicated from some other source or created with the help of another individual --The Honor System bans "work for hire" or "purchased work." This does not mean that you are forbidden to use technology to for visual aids. Give appropriate credit by orally citing sources.

3. Use of "file" speeches or papers --Your presentations are to be the product of your original research, thought, and composition. Simply rephrasing or reordering the ideas, organization, supporting materials, or any other element of a presentation from someone else's preparation and materials does not meet the requirements of original work and is an honor code violation. Extemporaneous delivery of a stolen or borrowed speech does not exempt a student from plagiarism charges.

4. Use of a misleading bibliography to "document" your speech -- A bibliography must include only the materials used in the development of the presentation. Inclusion of materials that were not used for analysis or incorporated into a presentation constitutes a violation of the Honor Code

