**How to Use Pinata**

**Step 1: Sign Up on Pinata**

1. Go to <https://www.pinata.cloud/>
2. Click **"Sign Up"** and create a free account.
3. Confirm your email and log in.
4. You can use the free version.

**Step 2: Create an API Key**

1. Go to your **Pinata dashboard**.
2. Go to the sidebar→ Developer-> **API Keys** → **New Key**
3. Choose:

* KeyName: Anything works
* Admin Access: Give Yes, if you are selecting No, make sure to scroll down to Legacy Endpoints and enabling the following permissions under the Pinning dropdown menu: **pinFileToIPFS** and **pinJSONToIPFS**

1. Click **Create Key**
2. **Important:**
3. You'll get:
4. API Key
5. API Secret
6. JWT (optional)
7. **Copy and store these securely**, especially the **secret** — you won’t be able to see it again.

**Step 3: Create a .env file**

1. Create a .env file in the same directory as your StudentNFTAPI.py
2. **Set up the .env file with the following content:**

PINATA\_API\_KEY= \*Your Pinata API Key\*

PINATA\_API\_SECRET= \*Your Pinata API Secret\*

PINATA\_JWT= \*Your Pinata JWT Token\*

FLASK\_ENV=development

FLASK\_DEBUG=1

HOST=127.0.0.1

PORT=5000

PINATA\_BASE\_URL=https://api.pinata.cloud/pinning

PINATA\_LEGACY\_URL=https://api.pinata.cloud/pinning/pinJSONToIPFS

SMART\_CONTRACT\_ADDRESS= \*The contract address obtained after deploying the node locally with the command:\*

# npx hardhat ignition deploy ./ignition/modules/StudentNFT.js --network localhost

ACCOUNT\_PRIVATE\_KEY= \*The private key of Account 0 from the local Hardhat node (run via `npx hardhat node`)\*

ACCOUNT\_ADDRESS= \*The address of Account 0 from the local Hardhat node (run via ` npx hardhat node`)\*