



AP[®] English Language 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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Every highschool student knows the dangers and consequences of plagiarism. From the very first day of school teachers ingrain in us the immorality of copying others' work ~~and~~ and (as if that weren't enough) subtle threats are worked into ~~the~~ the instructions for writing a paper or doing research for a project. The biology students in Piper, Kansas knew exactly what they were getting themselves into and surely can have no legitimate excuse for their conduct.

The students most certainly deserved a zero for their projects. Why should they receive any credit for work that isn't theirs when the other 4/5 of the class spent time and energy creating their own projects? The highschool teacher, Christine Delton, acted rightly in giving those students zeros for the assignment. Furthermore, the principal and superintendent agreed with her decision and yet some parents continued to complain. Parents want the best for their children and this should include just punishment for a crime that will then teach those students a lesson. How can their parents expect them to learn, and eventually function in adult society, if they are let off for conscious cheating? The Piper School Board only showed



its weakness and malleability when it requested Peltonⁿ to go easier on the guiltyⁿ. The Board should stand for morality and integrity and yet with a little persuasion from the parents it breaks down and lets the students go without adequate punishment. The Board oversees the school as a whole and should be interested in assuring that the students in Piper, Kansas receive the best education possible, but with such behavior as this the Board is hardly setting an example for the students.

If the students who plagiarized get away with the act it does not only undermine all the hard, honest work that the rest of the student body completes, but also, it sets a precedent. It creates the illusion that cheating is acceptable. It means that these students, and others following their example, will not see the harm in repeating such conduct in the future and plagiarizing again.

Pelton was right to resign. She, unlike the Board, stood ~~for~~^{with} her beliefs and in many ways ~~is~~^{with} one of the most principle American values: hard work and integrity are cherished, admired, and rewarded. Even if the Board ~~does not~~ cannot appreciate what her actions mean perhaps some of



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Question 3 **A3**

the students will take her resignation into account next time they begin a project.

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When students are caught stealing from department stores to convenience shops, they are dealt with swiftly and harshly. Not only do such incident go on their record, but the students must also pay for any damages. So why is it that when students today are caught plagiarizing, the punishment is neither as swift nor harsh?

Plagiarizing is simply another form of stealing. However, rather than stealing items such as clothes or a candy bar, it is the process of stealing another person's thoughts, ideas, and words, claiming it to be your own and taking full credit. Yet, not only is plagiarism stealing, but it is cheating as well. This causes many people to wonder, why is it that students are often let off so easily after committing such ~~act~~ ^{acts}? When students are caught plagiarizing and receive a minor punishment, many people ~~are~~ automatically assume it was because of the teacher. However, today, it is rarely the teacher who lets to student off "easy."

After students in Piper, Kansas were caught plagiarizing, the teacher chose to fail the guilty students. Although the school district agreed, it was after complaints by parents that they changed their mind. This caused the teacher to resign, feeling that her integrity was not fully supported as it



should ~~have~~ ^{be} ~~been~~ This makes the public wonder about the integrity of the public school system. If ~~they~~ ~~were~~ ~~collaborated~~ their morals could not stand strong because of parents, who obviously supported cheating, it reflects the decrease of integrity, ~~is~~ not only in the American School System, but in the American Society as well.

Students fail to understand that when teachers explain, "you're only hurting yourself," they are not lying. Not only are student who plagiarize ~~by~~ keeping themselves from learning and expanding their knowledge, but they are also putting themselves in a vulnerable position. They ~~are~~ getting caught and failing that class. ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~school~~ ~~system~~ Perhaps that is the problem of students today. They simply do not care if they are caught, because, let's face it, if their parents support it enough to complain and are able to convince the school to move on, what makes anyone think that the student will worry about the consequences? Chances are there won't be any consequences.

~~The~~ America is ~~losing~~ ~~its~~ its sense of integrity, as well as morality. That is the major problem that ~~the~~ society is facing. It seems as if the sense of right and wrong no longer exist, and instead,

Everyone is thinking about how they won't get caught. This sort of thing has been seen in all fields of business. It was only recently that companies, such as Enron and WorldCom were caught trying to cover up scandals. To many, it is all about not getting caught. In the WorldCom scandal, the only ones affected by the company's immorality were those who lost money in investments. To everyone else, it was "a shame." ~~and~~ America is losing its sense of integrity and if something is not done about it, soon, who knows where this country will be in a decade. chances are, not very far.

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Question 3 D

Lugano, Switzerland - With the establishment of ~~study help~~ internet research and study help, instances of highschool plagiarism has been rising steadily over the years. Academic honesty is becoming more difficult to maintain as the internet makes more essays available to to students, and students become more lazy ~~to~~ spending time writing their own work. School's should be allowed to keep in time with the progressing era of internet, even if it means more instances of failing students because of their lack of initiative. and honesty.

Parents should not have as great a say in the doings of school authorities if it means preventing teachers from performing well, and catching cheating students. Teachers should not have to resign, or quit or be fired in protest or because of outside pressure by uninvolved parents. If teachers are doing their job correctly, parents should be thankful to discover dishonest ~~student~~ children, and should aid the school in taking their kids in hand by retraining them in ^{any} ~~domestic~~



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way that ~~Do~~ parents normally punish dishonesty.

~~is~~ ~~core~~ ~~for~~ In an effort to curb the amount of academic honesty, parents should train their youngsters from an early age that honesty is an idea that reaches into all aspects of human life, including school life, and therefore, dishonesty should be punished ~~more~~ harshly. Schools could reinforce this by sticking to their integrity and punishing the students, and ignoring those parents who complain about issues that are not their jurisdiction.

School should be more outside the scope of parental influence than it has been previously and is today. School faculty should have more authority, as the education of children is their specialty, and ~~are~~ ^{are} therefore more knowledgeable than parents. ~~are about what to do for children~~ Parents should let educators do their jobs and not interfere in school policy.

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