**Plagiarism Contract**

**Objective**: To ensure that all students understand the concept of plagiarism and know how to avoid it in their own writing.

It is my goal, not to catch students and punish them, but to prevent them from making this all too common mistake. As students get older, the consequences will get steeper. It is better to learn to avoid this problem as they are learning to write now.

*Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition* defines the verb plagiarize as “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own; use (another’s production) without crediting the source: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.”

All students will be shown how to use MLA parenthetical documentation [ie. (Black 225)] and are expected to use it throughout their papers. They have also been informed that their paper will not be accepted without a Works Cited page. A paper with several proven instances of plagiarism will result in a zero.

Please sign the contract and return this by Wednesday, February 21, 2018. The contract must be turned in for the paper to be accepted.

We have read the information on plagiarism and understand the consequences.

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Student Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date