

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Homework #0**

Read and initial each statement, then sign the agreement at the bottom of the page.

## I. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Benjamin Franklin wrote “Honesty is the best policy.” Franklin was a very pragmatic man. Note that he did not say ‘Honesty is morally correct.’ His contention is that honesty just works out better in the end.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Sir Walter Scott wrote “Oh what a tangled web we weave, When first we practise to deceive!” An untruth about the source for an idea, the time an assignment was turned in, or the scheduling of an event may seem small when first spoken. When questions are asked, however, more untruths must be told to support the original. As these are subsequently questioned, the increasingly complex story will ultimately become self contradictory and unsupportable.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Homework assignments are designed to develop your skills. Thinking about a problem whose solution is not obvious deepens your understanding of the course material. If you were to cut corners by looking up solutions on the internet or referring to solutions from a previous semester you would be denying yourself an opportunity to increase your knowledge — knowledge that will be assumed in later assignments in this course in in subsequent courses.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Exams are the primary assessment tool in this course. If you were to use underhanded methods to improve your score on an exam, you would receive a grade that overstates your understanding of the course material. Maybe you are fine with that. In the future — in subsequent courses and in your career — you will be expected to demonstrate the understanding indicated by your grade. What would you then do? (See #2)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ After graduation, you will be seen as a representative of Carnegie Mellon University. If your skills are weak compared to the grades on your transcript, that same weakness will be assumed of other Carnegie Mellon students.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ If you behave unethically in the workplace, word will get around. Your behavior (good or bad) will reflect not only on yourself, but on other Carnegie Mellon Students
7. \_\_\_\_\_ If you act without integrity, it will devalue your degree.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ When *other* students act without integrity it devalues *your* degree.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Aristotle wrote “For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.” More simply, Pop Warner wrote “You play the way you practice.” Begin practicing ethical behavior now — today!

## II. PARTICULARS

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Working in groups to solve problems is beneficial. You gain the benefit of other students’ understanding, and the act of explaining your ideas clarifies and solidifies your own understanding.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ You are encouraged to work with other students to solve homework problems in this course. For each assignment you must include a list of the students involved in your discussions of the problems.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ You may refer to other textbooks or online references for help in learning the course material. If your search turns up a solution to one of your homework problems, a line has been crossed. Avert your gaze. If you have read past the statement of the problem, contact your TA or instructor immediately.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ It is important (for *your* benefit) that the work you turn in is a reflection of your own understanding, whether that understanding was gained by reading and attending lectures, or from discussions with other students (or TAs or your instructor).
14. \_\_\_\_\_ The homework paper you turn in must have been created without looking at any other students homework paper or rough draft, without looking at another student’s notes pertaining to the assignment, and without referring to any common set of notes produced by your working group. [Note: you *may* copy another students class notes if you miss a lecture, or compare your lecture notes with those of another student.]
15. \_\_\_\_\_ When you turn in your assignment, you should feel that you could reproduce the document without help of any form from any other student.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ When you take an exam, you should not use any resources other than the information provided in the exam, an approved calculator, and the knowledge inside your head.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ It is expected that you will be truthful in all communications with the 21-270 staff.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ If at any point in the course you find yourself uncertain as to whether you have lived up to these standards, contact your instructor or a TA immediately. If you bring an issue to us, we can have a very different conversation than if we discover an issue and contact you ourselves.

I have read and understood the above principles and particulars. I understand that my ethical conduct in this course will be judged based on the standards described above.

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(signature)