**Name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Cheating***

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| **Objective:** Reflect on a scenario in which high school students cheat on quarterly assessments.  |

**Directions:** Read the following scenario and answer the Reflection questions that follow.

The story below is based on a true event, but all names have been anonymized.

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| Students enrolled at Northwest High School take quarterly exams called interim assessments (IAs). These IA exams are between two and three hours long and are written to mimic other assessments students will take throughout their high school careers, like Advanced Placement exams, the SAT, and the ACT. At Northwest, students always sit in alphabetical order for IAs. In the spring of 2019, the pre-calculus teacher, Ms. Jenkins, noticed that two juniors, Jared and Zach (whose last names both begin with M), had the same multiple-choice scores and incredibly similar work on the open response questions. Ms. Jenkins and the Dean of Students questioned Jared and Zach separately to ask them what occurred. Both students quickly admitted that Zach copied Jared’s IAs with Jared’s permission. When asked why, Jared said, “I knew Zach was often absent because of challenges with his family, and I wanted to help him.” When Zach was asked why he copied Jared’s work, he said, “I’ve been struggling a lot with my mental health, and Jared offered.” After more discussion, it became clear that Jared and Zach had cheated on their pre-calculus, AP Chemistry, AP Psychology, and AP World History exams. The teaching staff met with the Dean of Students to discuss repercussions for both Zach and Jared. Both students received failing grades for the IAs they cheated on. The teachers also agreed that because this was a consistent breach of the school’s honor code, it would have to be mentioned in both students’ Letters of Recommendation for college. Jared’s unweighted GPA dropped from a 4.0 to a 3.7, and Zach’s dropped from a 3.2 to a 2.9. When Jared applied for college the following year, he was rejected from his top choice of college, despite earning all 4s and 5s on his AP classes and the top SAT score at the school. When the college counselor called the admissions office to ask more about why he was rejected, the admissions counselor explained that although Jared’s academic profile was competitive and impressive, the cheating incident made them decide against admitting him. Zach was also rejected from his top choice of college. However, both Jared and Zach enrolled in other universities and have been succeeding academically since then.  |

***Cheating* Reflection Questions**

**Directions:** Write a thoughtful response for each question below.

1. Upon reading this event, do you feel that Zach and Jared cheating was defensible (justifiable)? Is this a clearly right, clearly wrong, or ethically ambiguous situation? Explain your response.

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1. Do you find Zach or Jared equally culpable (responsible) in this situation, or do you find one of them *more* responsible?

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1. Is there a scale of ethics—that is, would you find this situation less dishonorable if Jared and Zach had only cheated on one IA instead of multiple IAs? Does the assignment itself matter? For example, what if they had cheated on a series of ungraded Exit Tickets (quick assessments given at the end of the class) instead of the quarterly exams? Explain your response.

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1. Does it matter that Jared gave Zach permission to copy his interim assessment responses? How would the situation feel different if Zach copied Jared’s work without his knowledge?

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***Cheating* Reflection Questions (Continued)**

1. When experiencing an academically demanding schedule, some students feel overwhelmed and tempted to copy other’s work. What is your advice for students in this situation?

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1. Put yourself in this situation. Your best friend approaches you and asks you if she can copy your biology homework. She’s been working after school and is falling behind. What would you do?

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1. If, instead, the student who asked you for your homework was someone you knew less well, how would that alter your response to a request to copy?

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**Stamp Your Learning for *Cheating***

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. After reflecting on these scenarios, what are your takeaways about cheating? Your response should be 3-5 sentences.

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1. Re-imagine the first time Zach and Jared discussed their plans to cheat. What could each of them have done differently to act with greater integrity?

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