

Reed Alumni and the Honor Principle

As Reed alumni, you already know that Reed is governed by the honor principle and you already have ideas about how that affects Reed life. However, you may not have thought about what the honor principle means to alumni in particular and the role that it plays in life after Reed.

As the liaisons between alumni and the Reed campus, we in Alumni Relations see first hand just how diverse opinions are regarding the honor principle. Periodically we see difficulties arise when people have conflicting views about how to apply the honor principle. No one ever said that self-governance is easy.

The honor principle is able to serve its purpose on campus because we have a process through which honor cases can be adjudicated. If honor is violated on campus, we have a variety of options to remedy the situation; we can voice our concerns face to face to reach a compromise, we can find a mediator to help improve a bad situation, we can consult the honor council, or if need be, we can take an honor case to the J-Board to adjudicate and possibly censure dishonorable action.

Unfortunately, the options are somewhat limited when it comes to Reedies at large. We can't expect alumni to agree with each other (and wouldn't really want to), and we can't force alumni to take part in any of the proceeding described above if they don't want to. We simply don't have the power to go out into the world and mete out Reedy justice in any forum we choose (if only we could).

Most of us would probably agree that writing rules in stone is anathema to the spirit of the honor principle. That said, we invite you to consider a few guidelines to help you make conscientious choices in your dealings with other members of this unique community.

1. It is honorable to support your fellow Reedies as you have been supported, through personal contact with student, faculty, and staff, through sharing your talent and time, and/or through charitable donations.
2. It is honorable to keep us informed about yourself and your opinions.
3. It is honorable to respect the privacy and security of your fellow Reedies by following the on-campus and online security measures established by the college.
4. It is honorable to make a good faith effort to RSVP & pay the requested fees when attending alumni events.
5. It is honorable to remember that all members of the Reed community deserve respect and that we all seek to uphold the honor principle in the best way that we know how.