

Academic Integrity Case Studies:

Jun and Diane

Jun and Diane are both in business class. Toward the end of the semester, the assignment is to do an analysis of a business plan. The paper is due in a couple of days and due to a family emergency, followed by being in bed all weekend with the flu, Jun hasn't had a chance to work on the paper and is very stressed out. Diane feels badly for Jun and since she has finished her analysis, she offers to loan Jun a copy of her paper so he can look it over to get a sense of how she broke down the assignment and then structured her response, figuring that should help Jun not feel so overwhelmed and make the project manageable. Jun gratefully accepts the offer. Diane sends him her analysis in an email attachment.

At this point, is this academic dishonesty? If so, what kind (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) and why?

As Jun reads over Diane's paper, he agrees with the majority of Diane's analysis, but there are a few things that he would word a bit differently. Jun reasons that since he agrees with Diane's concepts, it would make more sense to make a full copy of Diane's paper and go through it line by line, changing the sentences to sound like him. Occasionally he adds a couple of sentences to expand on a thought. He then creates a coversheet with only his name on it and turns it in.

At this point, is this academic dishonesty? If so, what kind and why?

As Prof. Mellencamp reads through the analysis, he is struck by the similarity between Jun and Diane's papers, in fact when he compares them, he realizes that they are outlined identically and in parts, they are worded identically and even where the wording varies, the concepts are the same.

If you were Diane, how could you explain your role in what transpired?

Sekana and Lucy

Sekana and Lucy are both international students from Narnia and in the same science class. Lucy has a strong grasp of the English language and is doing well in her classes. Sekana's grasp of the English language is not nearly as strong as Lucy's. With Lucy's help, she's working hard to expand her standard English vocabulary, plus learn all of the science vocabulary. But Sekana is having a hard time retaining the information, most likely because she isn't eating or sleeping well. One day, there is an exam in their science lab. Sekana is having a hard time understanding what is being asked in the questions and therefore doesn't know what to put down for the answers. She starts to panic that she'll fail the lab and the class. The TA notices that Sekana and Lucy are talking to each other in Narnian and he asks them what they are talking about. Lucy explains that she is only translating the questions for Sekana. The TA asks them not to talk and if Sekana has questions about the test, then she should bring them to him (the TA). Sekana asks him about one of the questions, but the TA can't explain it without giving away the answer, so Sekana goes back to her seat, uncertain what to do. Twice more during the exam, he catches Sekana and Lucy talking in Narnian. Again, he tells them to stop talking. The TA knows Lucy is a solid student and thinks it is very possible that Lucy is only translating the question and is not providing Sekana with the answers, but he isn't sure. He decides to report the situation to the professor who teaches this section.

What would you have done if you were in Lucy's place?

Ben

Last semester Ben took an ecology class and one of the papers he wrote was about the effects of DDT on bald eagles. This semester he is taking a wildlife biology class and realizes that his paper from last semester would work for one of the assignments for this semester too.

Is it academic dishonesty for Ben to turn the same paper in twice?

Shawn and Mimi

Shawn and Mimi are in the same program with about 40 other students. It is Mimi's first year in the program and Shawn's second year. This year Mimi has an assistantship in

in the same office where Shawn had an assistant last year. At some point, Mimi finds several papers that Shawn wrote last year on the hard drive of the office computer. She sees that one of the papers matches an assignment coming due soon. An assignment that Mimi sees as being a lot of detail work that she'll never use in the real world. Shawn's paper is well written and so Mimi lifts large sections of it and uses them in her paper, which she turns in to the same faculty member who taught the class last year when Shawn took the course.

If you were Shawn and the faculty member called you in about the similarity in the papers, what would you say? What would your reaction be to Mimi?

What if faculty member did not notice the text was plagiarized, but one night when you, Mimi and some other people from your program are out socializing Mimi told you what she had done. How would you react?

You

You are in a large, lecture style class. Because of the size of the class, the tests are all bubble sheets and because the chairs are bolted down and students need to sit right next to each other, the faculty member has three variations of the test and they are layered so that students sitting next to each other will not have the same version of the test.

As tests are being handed out, you notice that this one person doesn't take the question sheet on the top, but pulls one out of the stack and then compares it with the person to his left before passing the stack on to the next person in the row. During the test you notice that the way they are positioning their bodies and answer sheets, these two people are comparing answers as they go along.

What do you do?