

# Scenario 1

**A doctoral candidate is close to finishing her dissertation. Before submitting the final draft to her committee, she decides she wants a professional editor to look over the text to make it more readable and clean up any typos and potential errors. After all, her committee strongly recommended to “have someone read over it before finally submitting it.” The student decides to give the text to an editing company that promises careful editing and advertises its services with a track record of hundreds of successfully defended and published dissertations.**

**Did the student violate UGA's academic honesty policy? If so, how?**

**Where do you think ‘help’ ends and contract cheating begins?**

**Who else could the student have asked to edit the text and/or provide feedback on their writing?**

# Scenario 2

**A student submits his comprehensive exam. When his committee reads the exam, one member notices that the student has taken sentences from a paper they wrote about the same topic in their class last year. After deliberations, the committee decides to submit a report for alleged academic misconduct to the Office of Academic Honesty.**

**In the Facilitated Discussion, the student argues that this should not be a problem because the paper was not published, and none of its content was used in another assignment or published paper. Therefore, the student believes the case should be dismissed.**

**Did the student violate UGA's academic honesty policy? If so, how?**

**Do you agree with the student? Is self-plagiarism a problem in your field? Why or why not?**

**If you believe the student violated the Academic Honesty Policy, what do you think is an appropriate sanction in this case?**

**What could the student have done to avoid the entire situation in the first place?**

# Scenario 3

John asks his friend Mary about her experiment data and report. John would like to see a reference on how another student wrote and formatted the report, and he is interested in how Mary's experiment turned out. He just wants to compare his and her data. John likes the formatting of Mary's report and copies it to his Word document. Then he writes his report in Mary's format.

After John submitted his report, he noticed that he forgot to replace some of Mary's data with his own. He informs the professor and asks to submit a revised report without any of Mary's data in it. But it is too late. The professor argues the report's submission is final and submits a report for alleged academic misconduct.

Did John violate UGA's academic honesty policy?  
If so, how?

Is Mary responsible for academic misconduct  
in this situation? If so, how?

What sanctions do you think John and Mary should  
receive if you think they are responsible?

When do you think helping one another is okay,  
and at what point does it become a problem?

# Questions for Instructors

If you were an instructor in these scenarios,  
what would you do?

**If you had to prepare for a Facilitated Discussion  
in these scenarios, how would you prepare?**

What do you think would be the most fair outcome?  
Why do you think it would be fair?

**What would you have done differently if  
you were the student in the scenario?**

What would you have done differently as the  
instructor to avoid students cheating in the future?