

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 the 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?

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

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 they are responsible?

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

Instructor Questions

If you were an instructor in the scenario what would you do?

If you had to prepare for a Facilitated Discussion in this scenario, 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?

Third Party Websites

Can you use Chegg, CourseHero, or other third-party websites to help with your academic work?

What can you use Chegg, CourseHero, or other third-party websites for?

What use of such websites would be a violation of the university's academic honesty policy?

When is it permissible to upload course materials to the internet, if at all?

As an instructor, how can you identify when a student is using a third-party website? How do you respond?

Plagiarism

What do you know about plagiarism? What is it? How can it be avoided?

When do we have to cite information (common knowledge vs. personal ideas and opinions, research findings and interpretations)?

What can you do if you don't know the original source of text you want to cite

What if you use text from papers you have written before? Does it need to be cited? Have you heard of self-plagiarism? What is it? How can it be avoided?

How do you paraphrase correctly? When is paraphrasing plagiarism? What strategies do you use to paraphrase correctly?

Unauthorized Assistance

Is it okay to ask others for their academic work if you need help with an assignment? Why or why not?

Is it okay to give a friend your academic work if they ask for help? Why or why not?

When is it okay to look at other students' work? How do you distinguish between taking inspiration and taking their work?

Collusion vs. Collaboration: Where do you set the line? Is your line the same as your peer's and your instructor's? How might it be different? How could the line be different in different cultures, different fields of study, and in different classes?

Unauthorized Assistance

Have you been in a situation where others took your work? How did you respond?

If it hasn't happened to you, how do you think you would respond if it did happen? How do you think it would influence you and your career if other people took your work?

When is it appropriate to have an editor?

What do you think an editor can do with your text, and when does editing go too far? Where do you think is the line between contract cheating and getting help with your writing?

Lying and Tampering

Describe a situation where a student may not know another way out than to cheat or a time where they may feel so pressured that they make a decision that ends up being cheating?

How can you make sure that you don't get in trouble for academic misconduct in a situation where you feel pressured to do the wrong thing?

How do you think it can impact your advisor's/PI's career if you fabricate or falsify data?

How do you think it would impact the reputation of the institution you work and/or study at?

How would it impact your perception of your instructors if they cheated in their research?

Instructor Questions

What strategies can you use in your classroom to encourage academic honesty?

What strategies can you use in your classroom to encourage academic honesty?

Ask students: Tell me what I can do in my classroom that would invite you to come to me for help?

Do you have conversations with students about academic honesty? If so, how do these discussions influence your relationship with students and their propensity to cheat?

What do you think makes students cheat in your classroom, if they do?