**Gray Areas in Plagiarism Cases**

Sometimes it can be hard to judge whether information has been used improperly. It can be difficult to understand what consequences would be appropriate for these instances. This exercise asks students to analyze different cases of plagiarism and assess various strategies of coping with incidents of plagiarism that are less blatant than copying and pasting.

**SCENARIO 1**

A student borrows a paper from a friend and copies word-for-word several paragraphs where source material is summarized and documented. When confronted by the friend, the student says that the sections she borrowed were just about cited sources so she cannot see the problem. If you were the friend in this case, what would you do?

**SCENARIO 2**

A student has written a paper, and the body of it paraphrases another source. There is very little of the student’s own writing in the paper, so if s/he documents the source, nearly every paragraph will be cited. A friend points this out when asked to proofread the paper. The paper is due the next morning. What should the student do?

**SCENARIO 3**

A student buys a paper off the Internet and is not “caught” by the teacher. This student goes on to work at a respectable newspaper. Years later, his stolen paper is discovered and publicized, and his reputation suffers from this disclosure. What should the editor of the newspaper do?

Source:

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