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Academic Dishonesty

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### Academic Dishonesty

Incidences of academic dishonesty are commonplace in institutions of higher learning across the world. More often than not, large numbers of students practice various forms of academic dishonesty, such as cheating, plagiarism, copying other students' work, using illegal cribs, and doing examinations for another student. Much as some would be tempted to think that some forms of cheating are more serious than others are, it is worth to mention that all types of academic cheating are equally wrong. There is no way copying a friend's work is more wrong than using sources without citing them or cheating in class test are, because they all work together to diminish the quality of education in schools, colleges, and universities.

In my thinking, professors should first ensure that all students are aware of their institution's dishonesty policies and penalties for cheating. The awareness of these policies among students will ward them off from engaging in academic malpractices. Furthermore, it is important to make students understand that not only does cheating hinder their academic growth, but also is limits their career progression. In the event that students go ahead and cheat in their course work, professors should enforce corrective and punitive measures as stipulated in an institution's policies. These include suspensions, academic referrals, and reduction of the final grades. These measures work together to promote academic integrity amongst students although they would turn out to be very unpalatable to the affected individuals.

In case I am aware of any form of academic dishonesty practiced by other students around me, it is my responsibility to report such malpractices to a professor or academic office without fail. My decision to report cheating students to the authorities is based on the understanding that keeping quiet when other students practice dishonesty around me is a way of assisting them to do it even more often. In the event that a dishonest student is a friend or acquaintance, I should make an effort to persuade them to desist from the unethical act by highlighting the subsequent heavy penalties that cheating attracts. Similarly, I should exercise utmost caution not to be influenced into engaging in any form of academic dishonesty by the students who are doing so. Instead, I should always make it my principle to observe academic integrity and honesty.

The research finding that engineering students cheat more than students in other disciplines seems to be true. In my opinion, such students tend to share much information amongst them compared to students from other departments. It has also been observed that engineering students do have unlimited access to published materials and serialized lab reports from which they copy series of repeated assignments. During practical sessions, some of them fabricate their experimental data to match literature values found in course books and laboratory manuals. Despite the ongoing trend, it is notable that a good number of engineering students stay clear of cheating by concentrating on their individual works.

Academic dishonesty is commonplace in institutions of higher learning, since students from all faculties cheat in their coursework in one way or the other. The much-desired eradication of the flaring academic dishonesty in colleges and universities requires concerted efforts of students and professors. It is advisable that all students should do everything in their powers to promote academic honesty by desisting from cheating in their course work.

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