Student Research Misconduct

Plagiarism

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

It is an empty college library at night. A student sits in a corner booth, there is a ceiling light right above their head. They are wearing a gray hoodie with a university logo.

Narrator: Meet Justin, a third Year Student who is taking a specialized research course for their major. They are currently working on their lab report. Justin is having difficulties keeping up with coursework and maintaining good grades.

Justin sits in front of their Laptop, they look down at it. Staring back at them is a table half filled with data from the research, many rows left blank.

Subject	Wellness Level	Physiological Response	Behavioral Response
Ama	5.00	121/80	1.00
Jeronimo	9.00	172/116	0.00
Dana	3.00	80/60	0.00
Ayla	6.00	141/95	0.00

Narrator: It seems like Justin's data is not adding up.

Justin(v.o):(whispering to themselves) What-What am I gonna do? What am I gonna do? What am I gonna do? (fast, panicked & frustrated)

Justin(v.o):(whispering to themselves) I spent **SO** much time on this research. What I have is not good enough.(anxious & annoyed - sweating)

Justin(v.o): I need *better* results. I need *better* results.   (fast, with sigh)

On the left side of the screen appears a Yellow Shadow of Justin but with a deeper voice. GREEN Shadow is also Justin but punctuates all syllabus and speaks calmly and quietly.

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Yellow Shadow: I have an idea! Change the data to what you would want it to look like. (chirpy & sneaky)

Justin: Hmm I don't know about that. (confused)

Yellow Shadow: Say goodbye to getting a reference letter with those results.(sacractic)

Justin looks at the data on the search website and modifies their own results based on that information.

Narrator: Justin really wants to impress their professor so that they can get a good reference letter later on.

On the computer they open a search tab and type their experiment on the search bar.

Justin: It won't hurt anybody if I do this. Plus this is just an assignment, it won't even get published ... Why would anyone even care about what I have to say?... (trying to convince yourself but hesitant)

Justin: … No one will actually use the data from my study. (trying to justify)

Green Shadow: Wait, no Justin! This is your opportunity to learn. After all that's what you're here for.

Yellow Shadow: You need good grades if you actually want to get into graduate school.

Green Shadow: That's true. But that doesn't mean cheating is your only option or even the best one. You will have an opportunity to explain in your application why you had lower grades in a particular year(s).

Green Shadow: Justin, listen to me. (sounds as if the green is not even there)

Yellow Shadow: No, listen to me! (concerned and panicked)

Green Shadow: No, no listen to ME!!! (angry and scary)

Justin: Stop it! (exasperated and sick of them both)

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The Shadows disappear

The computer light illuminates their face.

Justin goes to the submission portal page, they attach the pdf of the submission portal. We go on a close up of Justin's finger on the enter button. They do not click the button and put their hand away. This is to imply that they hesitate and will do the right thing, or maybe not…

Narrator: Although Justin could be unintentionally engaging in academic misconduct, it is still a breach of the academic honesty policy.

pause

Narrator: A lower grade earned honestly is better than a higher grade earned at the cost of a breach of the academic honesty policy.

Narrator: To avoid academic misconduct, Justin could have reached out to their professor to discuss their assignment and to ask for some advice on keeping up with coursework.

Narrator: Student *Research Misconduct - as defined by York University - is: any action or attempted action of misconduct in the collection, use or dissemination of research including but not limited to*:

1.Dishonest reporting of investigative results, either through fabrication or falsification;

2.Taking or using the research results of others without permission or due acknowledgement.

3. Misrepresentation or selective reporting of research results or the methods used;

4. Knowingly publishing information that will mislead or deceive readers, including the falsification or fabrication of data or information, the failure to give credit to collaborators as joint authors or the listing as authors of others who have not contributed to the work;plagiarism is also considered form of misconduct in publication;

5.Disseminating data or other products of research done by or with a faculty member or another student for publication or presentation without permission and due acknowledgement;

6. Using or releasing ideas or data of others without their permission that were given with the

express expectation of confidentiality;

7. Listing of potential collaborators without their agreement.

Narrator: *Plagiarism - as defined by York University - is: the misappropriation of the work of another; whether published, unpublished or posted electronically, attributed or anonymous, or without proper acknowledgement. This includes but is not limited to:*

1. Presenting all or part of another person's work or ideas as something one has produced where work includes, but is not restricted to, text, code, technical and creative production, paragraph and essay structure and organization, and other forms that constitute intellectual property;

2. paraphrasing another's writing without proper citation;

3. representing another's artistic, technical work or creation as one's own;

4. reproducing without citation the student's own work originally presented elsewhere;

5. failing to follow proper citation practices, even if inadvertent.

Post Video Credits:

Students who violate The Academic Honesty Policy are subject to penalties that can be imposed singularly or in combination for any offense. Examples of penalties could include a written warning, a make-up assignment, a failure in the course, permanent grade of record, notation on transcript, suspension from the university for a definite period or with transcript notation, or withholding a York University degree.

For additional details on the Academic Honesty policy, procedures, regulations, and resources, please visit:

www.yorku.ca/unit/vpacad/academic-integrity

and

www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies

There are many resources available to support and aid students in avoiding violations of The Academic Honesty Policy.

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Students are encouraged to access academic support and services such as:

- Peer Tutoring, Peer Mentoring, Peer Assisted Study Sessions, Course Representatives through the Calumet and Stong Colleges' Student Success Programs.
- As well as Academic Advising through [The Faculty of Health's Office of Student and Academic Services](#)

Students can also acquire unique learning skills and time management skills through workshops, learning modules, and one-on-one appointments by accessing the Learning Commons.

Students struggling with mental health issues are encouraged to get support from peers, friends, family, or other support systems. In addition, they can also get support through York University's Student Counselling, Health & Well-being and Calumet and Stong Colleges' Health and Wellness Program.

References

Policies, procedures and regulations. **York University. (n.d.). Retrieved May 21, 2022, from https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/**