

The Academic Wellness ProjectScript - Video 3

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
Jeroni mo	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.

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. (sarcastic)

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?...

Justin: ... No one will actually use the data from my study.

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.

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

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

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

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 York University's Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures.

Narrator: A lower grade earned honestly is better than a higher grade earned at the cost of a breach of York University's Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures.

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* - refers to any action or attempted action of misconduct in the collection, use or dissemination of research including but not limited to:

- Dishonest reporting of investigative results from original research or course-based activities, either through fabrication or falsification.
- Taking or using the research results of others without permission or acknowledgement.
- Misrepresentation or improper selective reporting of research results or the methods used.
- 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.
- 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.
- Using or releasing ideas or data of others, without their permission, which were given with the express expectation of confidentiality.

and

- Listing of potential collaborators without their agreement.

Narrator: Plagiarism - *as defined by York University* - is the appropriation of the work of another whether published, unpublished or posted electronically, attributed or anonymous, without proper acknowledgement.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

- 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.
- Paraphrasing another's writing without proper citation.
- Representing another's artistic, technical work or creation as one's own.
- Reproducing without citation the student's own work originally presented elsewhere.

and

- Failing to attribute sources, or failure to attribute sources properly.

Narrator: Students who violate York University's Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures 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, a permanent grade of record, a notation on the transcript, suspension from the university for a definite period or with transcript notation, or the withholding of a York University degree.

Narrator: There are many resources available to support and aid students in their academic wellness journey. Students in the Faculty of Health are encouraged to connect with the Office of Student and Academic Services. Academic advisors can help you understand your degree requirements and track your academic progress. In addition, Calumet and Stong Colleges' Student Success Programs offer personalized academic support through Peer Tutoring, Peer Mentoring, Peer-Assisted Study Sessions, and Course Representative check-ins. These services are designed to help you stay engaged and confident in your learning journey.

Narrator: To build strong academic habits, develop the skills needed for success in courses, and avoid issues related to academic misconduct, students can take advantage of workshops, self-guided modules, and one-on-one assistance through York University Libraries and the Learning Commons. These resources provide support in areas such as information literacy, citation skills, academic integrity, time management, and exam preparation.

Narrator: Students facing mental health challenges can get support through York University's Student Counselling, Health and Well-being and Calumet and Stong Colleges' Health and Wellness Program – Where students can access mental health counselling, workshops, and opportunities to connect with peers through community-based events and creative wellness activities.

Narrator: For additional details on academic honesty, policy, procedures, regulations, and resources at York University please visit:

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

www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies

www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-conduct-policy-and-procedures

References

York University. (2024). *Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures*. York University Secretariat.

<https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-conduct-policy-and-procedures/>

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