Using the Plagiarism Tutorial in Education: Case Studies

Analysis and evaluation of cases in education provide opportunity to apply knowledge of a topic to a real life situation. Using the Plagiarism Video and Quiz together with cases in undergraduate education facilitates a deeper understanding of what plagiarism is, who it hurts, and subsequent consequences.

Instructions:
- Take the plagiarism quiz as a pre-test at the beginning of the lesson.
- Complete the case analysis and discussion.
- Watch the video and take the quiz as a post-test.
- Have access to the APA current manual of style – either the book or website
- Students brainstorm other common examples of plagiarism with the instructors’ assistance. The instructor may add additional examples based on experience.
- Students work in small groups of three to write a case and exchange with another group to discuss.

Case 1: One assignment in an undergraduate teacher education course is to create and implement a lesson plan in science in their field placement. Stephanie turned her work in at the last minute without consulting her cooperating teacher and university supervisor. Stapled together with the lesson plan were several “cute” worksheets for the students to complete during and after the lesson. Stephanie found these worksheets on the Internet and copied and pasted them onto a Word document without citing the source. The university supervisor told Stephanie that her work was an example of plagiarism.

Read the case independently and work in small groups of three to discuss and answer the following:

1. Why did the university supervisor accuse Stephanie of plagiarism? Explain.

2. What do you imagine Stephanie might have told her instructor?

3. Who was “hurt” by these actions? Explain fully for each party involved.

4. What should Stephanie have done to avoid this conflict?

5. What actions do you believe the university supervisor should take? Explain.