Using the Plagiarism Tutorial in Psychology: A Case Study

Analysis and evaluation of cases in psychology provide opportunity to apply knowledge of a topic to a real life situation. Using the Plagiarism Video and Quiz together with cases in an undergraduate psychology class 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.
- 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 psychology course is to locate, summarize, and critique a research article. Marco’s critique is well-written and includes a reference page. During the summary, he was careful to paraphrase the original article, but did not include in-text citations for specific information from the article. Marco’s professor has called him into her office and said that his 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 professor accuse Marco of plagiarism? Explain.

2. What do you imagine Marco might have told his instructor?

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

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

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