



This activity was adapted from Harris (2001, p. 151) and published in Bretag, T., Crossman, J. & Bordia, S. (2006) *Communication Skills for International Students in Business*, Sydney: McGraw-Hill.

- Audience:** First year or transition students
Small group class activity
- Context:**
- Learning objectives:** The specific aims of this activity are to assist participants to clarify ethical issues regarding the topic of academic integrity
- Activity:**
1. Form groups of three to four students. Ask each group to read the 3 attached scenarios, and then to answer the questions that follow
 2. Once each group has reached a consensus, move to the next scenario.
 3. Ask groups to discuss their responses as a whole class.
 - 4.
- Resources:** Bretag, T., Crossman, J. & Bordia, S. (2006) *Communication Skills for International Students in Business*, Sydney: McGraw-Hill.
- Results and reflection:** Ask participants to write a 'minute paper' indicating what they have learnt as a result of this activity (or what they have become more confused or uncertain about); how they will develop this knowledge (or seek clarification); how they will apply this knowledge, and what questions remain unanswered.
- Gather information on any 'scenarios' that the class would like to discuss in the future, or which they'd like to have added to the list of scenarios

You can use and adapt this learning activity to suit your students and teaching context by using the citation available on the web page: www.aisp.apfei.edu.au/content/learning-activities

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Scenario 1: Submitting rubbish

You are working in the computer pool, printing out an assignment. As you discard a poorly printed page, you notice another discarded assignment in the rubbish bin. You pull it out and notice that it is an assignment for a course you will be taking next semester. You decide to keep the assignment on the off-chance that the topic will not have changed next semester. Luck is with you and the lecturer sets the same topic when you take the course. You decide that the assignment you found is better than anything you could write yourself. You change the cover sheet, putting your details on the front and submit the paper as if it is your own work. You run out of luck. This lecturer keeps copies of all assignments for one year. She calls you to her office and asks why this assignment is exactly the same as one previously submitted.

Questions:

- Is this student guilty of plagiarism?
- What do you think the penalty for this form of plagiarism should be?
- Are there any extenuating circumstances you can think of which the lecturer should consider before deciding on a penalty?
- How would you feel if it was your assignment that had been retrieved from the rubbish bin?

Scenario 2: Making up the sources

Your lecturer is very strict about what sort of sources he expects you to use for your research essays. He has repeatedly said that he expects a range of sources, including books, journal articles and web sources. He has also explained that he takes a very tough approach to plagiarism. You have researched your topic and found many useful websites that use easy to understand language. You have also found some books and journal articles, but the language is very dense and you do not feel confident to paraphrase these materials. You decide to cut and paste from the websites, and provide in-text references to the books and journals. Both sources say similar things so you think it won't matter if you haven't actually used the hard copy sources.

Questions:

- Do you think this a reasonable approach to referencing?
- When the lecturer checks the references, what do you think his response will be?
- If paraphrasing is too difficult, is it okay to simply cut and paste from a website?

Scenario 3: Taking advantage of friends

You arrived in Australia just three months ago and spent the first month desperately lonely and homesick. Things improved when you met a nice group of students from your home country and you now spend most of your free time socialising with these new friends. One of these friends is taking the same course as you. Unfortunately her English is not as advanced as yours and she really struggles with her assignments. You have tried to help her, but both of you are under time pressure. On the due date of your second assignment she calls you to ask for assistance. You meet her at university and she is very upset and crying. She has been unable to complete the assignment and asks if you would please give her the disk from your assignment so that she can use it as a basis for hers. You are nervous that you will both be caught for plagiarism, but you agree to her request. Both of you submit your assignments and the lecturer says nothing. Now, whenever an assignment is due, your friend expects you to give her your disk.

Questions:

- How does this make you feel?
- Do you think your friend is taking advantage of you?
- What do you think your lecturer should do if she finds out that you are both submitting the same work?
- Do you think that *you* are guilty of unethical academic conduct? Why/Why not?