

Academic Integrity in Action: Case Study #2

Scenario:

You are grading lab write-ups when you come across very similar sections on the reports of two students. You feel there is very little chance that this is coincidence. You examine the labs closer and sense that one student copied a portion of the other student's lab.

>>What considerations do you make in deciding how to respond? What do you do?

Advice from the Office of Judicial Affairs:

Again, call us at 684-6938, before you approach the students. Share with us what you suspect. Why do you think one student copied from the other? Has the other student performed well throughout the course, and the suspected student less so? Is there a similarity in language between one student's work and what he has previously submitted? We'll offer you strategies on how to raise your concern with the students.

You email both students with your suspicions. You receive a response back the next morning. One student said that he and the other student were working on the lab assignments in the library at the same time but both worked independently. The other student said he reached his answer independent of anyone else.

>>What do you do?

This needs to be explored further. We'll offer advice on what to do next. This scenario has happened before, and in that case, the one student didn't know that his work had been copied when he went to the restroom for a few minutes!