

STEM Case Study: “Plagiarism?”

Step 1: Read your assigned case:

- STEM odd numbered groups: “Tweaking the Data”
- STEM even numbered groups: “Plagiarism”

Step 2: Discuss your case.

Step 3: Be ready to share one key insight of your own.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Establish a framework for creating psychological safety.
- Clarify roles as teacher and role model in education mentees about ethics.
- Manage the power dynamic inherent in the mentoring relationship.
- Articulate ethical issues that need to be discussed with mentees.

CASE NARRATIVE:

A team of four undergraduate researchers has been asked to research and write a literature review about a process they will be using during work in your lab. They have been given clear guidelines about your expectations for citations in the paper. When the review is handed in, you notice some sections of the paper have language that seems too technical for the students to have written it, and a quick internet search shows these sections are copied verbatim from a published paper available online. You invite the team of students to your office to discuss the issue. What do you say?

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- What are the facts? What are the assumptions in this situation?
- What, if anything could have been done to prevent the situation?
- What opportunities does this situation present?
- What courses of action are possible? Which ones are preferable? Why?