

Questions for Discussion:

1. Is what constitutes plagiarism culturally informed? Does it matter that this is an international student? Why/why not?
2. One theory of learning (and of error in relation to learning) holds that students learn by making mistakes and by being guided/mentored into better work by more advanced scholars. Given this theory of learning, plagiarism could be seen either as an error in writing or as a failure/shortcoming in the teaching of writing. How do you see the charge of plagiarism in this case? What competing responsibilities (to the student who plagiarized; to the other students in the class; to the institution; to the field) are these teachers grappling with?
3. What responsibilities do teachers have for graduate student writing? (For undergraduate student writing?) What is a graduate student's responsibility for his/her own writing? Where/how do students learn this?
4. Are the teachers well supported by the plagiarism policy in place at this institution? Why/why not?
5. Are the graduate students in this course well served by the plagiarism policy in place at this institution? Why/why not?

This case was drawn from: Schrag, Brian, ed. 2002. *Research Ethics: Cases and Commentaries Volume 6*. Bloomington: Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.

Questions for Discussion were adapted by Deborah Minter