

Write and upload your Telling Your Story (TYS) Assignment

Purpose

1. To provide you a structured opportunity to reflect on the situation that has led to your participation in any of the five trainings
2. To practice talking about your academic integrity violation with others

Assignment

First, think of someone whom you respect or admire and/or someone who has a "stake" in your academic integrity violation. This could be the Instructor of the course in which the violation occurred, your favorite high school teacher, a parent, a current or future employer, or a future admissions counselor (perhaps for graduate school, medical school, law school, etc.). If you are going to be applying for a job or graduate school and are worried about having to tell them about this violation, the employer or "admissions counselor" would be a great choice for this assignment.

Second, you will compose a letter to that person. In that letter, you should:

1. Tell the story of events that led to the violation (see below: Further Tips to Complete Assignment).
2. Consider the factors that contributed to the situation. What went wrong? What could have been done better? Which aspects are under your control and which are not?
3. Pose questions that you still have about the violation, the consequences, or future ramifications you may experience as a result of the violation.
4. Ask the imagined recipient for advice that could help you move forward and recover from this experience. (Think about what might be helpful in avoiding situations like this in the future or in making better decisions and try to ask for advice that will move in that direction).

Further Tips to Complete Assignment

Your story of the violation and the events leading up to the violation can include characters, character dialogue, realistic details, vivid descriptions (Renner, 1994), as well as a plot with "a beginning, a middle, and an end" (Herreid, 1998, ¶4). Such stories are used to facilitate reflection on a personal experience as well as stimulate dialogue, encourage analysis and critical thinking, and consider multiple points of views.

You can begin the writing process by reflecting on and writing out responses to the following questions:

1. What was your integrity policy violation, that is, the "problem"? Write out your description.
2. Who was involved, that is, who are the main characters? Obviously you are one, but who are the others? The instructor, a teaching assistant, classmates, roommate, parent, friend,

etc.? What roles did they play in the case? Describe the characters and their roles. Don't forget to use pseudonyms so your case is anonymous.

3. What was the sequence of events that led to the integrity policy violation? Reconstruct how you came to the final action that led to the academic misconduct allegation. For example, "The instructor assigned us a research paper on global warming. Within a week, I had all of the sources I needed to write the paper, but because of other assignments and my job, I left the reading to the week the paper was due. I read all of the material in one night, copying and pasting stuff from the material into my paper. Then, the next night I went back to the paper and started writing and paraphrasing the material; I was up until 3:00 a.m., but I got the paper done. Then, a week after I submitted the paper, I was told by the professor that I had plagiarized and was being reported for academic misconduct!"
4. Identify the beginning, middle and end of your story—now read it as if you were someone else. What additional details—vivid descriptions—can you provide to help the reader understand the story? For example:
 - Beginning —"I was totally not into writing this research paper because I do not care about the topic and I had never written a research paper before, so I was clueless on how to start";
 - Middle —"I was so tired when trying to write the paper that I became angry at having to even do the assignment"; and
 - End —"My reaction was that the professor was out to get me, and I was worried about how this would affect my grade in the course."

Incorporate the above information into a concise narrative that gets across the main points of your situation while being interesting and dynamic.

When uploading your TYS assignment

- **Make sure the assignment includes your full name and PID**
- **This letter should be at least 500 words in order to address the purpose of this assignment**
- **Make sure that you upload a typed readable document (i.e. .doc, .docx)**