

## Plagiarism and False Email

I am a first-year criminology student at the University of Windsor. During my first semester I committed my first offence in an anthropology class. I **plagiarized a student's essay** and **impersonated the T.A.** in an email I created.

A few days before the essay was due I went to the T.A. for some help. I wrote everything down as she was speaking. I was very confident about the essay, but at the same time I was worrying about it being perfect. I started writing and as soon as I read over what I wrote, it sounded like I was in grade 9 again. I really **needed help** in how to do an essay and I really wanted to see someone else's essay so I could get an idea.

I knew a friend in class who I thought could give me a good idea, but I didn't think she would let me look at her essay. So I thought maybe I should lie, saying the T.A. decided to look at our essays for any grammar mistakes. I told my friend to send her essay to me because the T.A. did not want anyone to know that she was helping us. My friend got excited and emailed me her essay.

I quickly **looked through her essay**, how she started and ended her paragraphs, as well as what references she used. She expected an email back from the T.A. to show how many corrections the T.A. made. A couple of hours before the essay was due, the friend asked me if the T.A. had emailed me. I didn't want to make it obvious that I was lying so I **made a fake email account** in the T.A.'s name and sent her the essay back **pretending I was the T.A.**

I started writing my essay again **using some of my friend's ideas** and rewording some of her words. I didn't even realize what I was doing until the day of the exam. I didn't compare the essays to see if they were similar or not. The day of the exam my friend wanted to see my essay and I happily passed it to her because **I didn't think it would be similar**. As soon as she read the first paragraph she noticed it was almost the same as hers. I kept denying it and handed it in anyways. My friend was very suspicious. She contacted the professor and from then on she found out everything.

I regret doing what I did because now I have a record showing a **suspension**. I wish I had never looked at her essay at all. I **lost a great friend** and no one deserves what I put her through. I should have used my own words, whether they were good or not, because no one can be perfect. Any student in this situation should **always tell the truth** and always go to the Academic Writing Centre for help as early as possible, at least a month before the essay is due. Good luck to everyone.

- Arts & Social Science Student  
Winter 2006