

## Plagiarism in an Assignment as a Graduate Student

I was charged with academic misconduct – plagiarism - at the graduate level. For that I was **suspended for six months**, and I agreed to write this story. I have learned it is **important to properly cite sources** not only in the body of work but also in your bibliography as well. I cannot provide a relevant reason for why I plagiarized as I did not do it consciously nor did I do so in a way that would fall under a category of why people plagiarize, which are: trying to get ahead, taking the easy way out, etc. I suppose one reason why people plagiarize that I could fall under is lack of interest in a course. I did have a lack of interest in the course and perhaps it was this lack of enthusiasm of doing the work that led me to not look over my work more times than I did. Upon review of my good copy it was determined that it contained enough **missed citations and improper format** with respect to the Works Cited to warrant the complaint and file the charges. My work also included **major passages** derived from a website that were **copied verbatim with no attribution** whatsoever.

The whole situation has been an ordeal that I hope no one else will have to go through. However, with people constantly looking for a way around work or, in my case, not giving the work the respect it deserves so that it is done properly, these charges and events are sure to be part of the academic environment just as text books and teachers are.

It was **never my intention to “cheat”** the program or show a lack of respect for the professor, faculty, and the University of Windsor. Now that this ordeal is over I hope we can all move forward academically and not have this event cast a never-ending shadow on myself or the University of Windsor, as I have been an integral part of many school-related events and projects, not just in the faculty that my studies occurred in but at the University as a whole.

Hopefully whoever reads this does not have to go through the same situation as I did. I am **thankful to the University of Windsor for guiding my studies** for the last five years as I hope you are as well. **Give your work the respect it deserves** and in doing so you will not find yourself in situations that involve academic misconduct.

- M.A. Student  
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