

Plagiarism in Fourth Year

I am a fourth-year student in Diaspora Studies and Sociology at the University of Windsor. I pleaded guilty to academic misconduct, namely plagiarism, and I will be **facing an academic suspension** for two full semesters.

This is my first offence. It consisted of **writing an entire project without acknowledging the sources** and even without incorporating my own thoughts. I did not start the project until one week before the due date, which was not enough time to finish it since we required reading the book and theorizing it in our own words. But guess what? I could not even comprehend the entire book in one week, and ended up with internet materials from three different sources, pasting and putting them together as my own. I went to the professor to show my initial draft to see how it looked, and was told what I needed to do. **I did not take the professor's advice** as it seemed like I could get away with my plan.

The second stage was getting back the papers. The professor handed me a written paper telling me that I plagiarized my paper and got a **zero grade**. The professor said the Academic Integrity Office had been informed and they would call me about an investigation that may result in a suspension or expulsion from the University of Windsor. This was **the worst moment**; I realized that I had made a **horrible mistake** and had **ignored honesty and integrity**. My first reaction was to tell the professor that I would like to meet the next day. I came to the office with a written letter stating my failure to acknowledge sources. I said this was based on a personal issue (health condition) and I could not concentrate on the work properly and asked the professor to forgive me and not report my actions.

What I have learned so far with this act, is that most of the time students blame others or make excuses for such failures, but this is my absolute failure and **I should not blame others or point to other factors**. This is **a serious offence** and I promise myself not be involved in this again in the future.

My advice to other students is to **be honest and be committed to your own work**, and **stop relying on copying internet materials** and not acknowledging sources.

Diaspora Studies and Sociology Student
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