

Case Study

Hosea, Yoshee, Maleah, and Robin are working on a group assignment that accounts for 1/3 of their grade in Introduction to Business 101. This is a major research assignment, so they divided the work so each person will contribute an equal amount to the final paper. They have been meeting on a weekly basis to check progress and refine the focus of their paper. Hosea, Yoshee, and Maleah are a little concerned about Robin's portion of the paper. He missed several meetings, and has not provided them with rough drafts of his part. Now the paper is in its final revision. Robin submitted his part to Maleah so she can put the paper together before turning it in. They are meeting for one last time to go over the final product, but Robin has a prior commitment and can't be there. Maleah is suspicious of Robin's work. She shares her concerns with Yoshee and Hosea. They decide to check Robin's sources just to make sure his portion is accurate. As they are checking one of the resources, they find the paper that Robin submitted as his own work posted on an Internet site. Now they are trying to decide what to do. The paper is due tomorrow. If they let it go and the professor checks the sources, they will all be in trouble. Should they confront Robin and help him redo his part of the paper? Should they inform the professor? What will happen to their grades if they leave Robin's part out and turn in an incomplete paper?

Exercise 1: Read the scenario. If you were in Robin's group, what would you do? What are their options? Which option do you think would be best? Be prepared to share your answers.

Case Study Activity

Divide the students into groups of three or four. Ask each group to make a list of statements they have said or have heard that places blame on someone else. An example might be:

- "I would have made a better grade on that test if the teacher did not talk so fast that I can't take notes."
- "I just don't know how my teacher expects me to make a good grade on his/her test if he/she does not provide us with a study guide."
- "I just could not get my paper done because the computers in the lab would not read my disk and the lab assistant just would not come over and help me."

After each group develops a list of at least five statements, the groups will trade their list with another group. Then the groups will have to take the new list and change each statement into one that indicates the student is accepting the responsibility instead of blaming someone else.

The groups will then share their revisions with the class.