

THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"Episode 1: Introduction"

In a medium sized room, illuminated by a few small desk lamps Allison sits at her desk tirelessly tapping away at her laptop. Her computer screen glows from the white word-processor application she's working in. As Allison types on her laptop she periodically stops to glance at the stack of books that clutter her desk.

A close-up of Allison's screen reveals what she's writing.

ALLISON: (thinking outloud)  
Developmental psychology is concerned  
with the growth and development of  
individuals. This field of study can  
include the study of individuals  
throughout their lives as student...

Allison stops to ponder what she just wrote. A digital clock on her desk reads 11:45PM. She rubs her eyes trying to remember what her next thought was. She glances at an open book next to her lap.

A highlighted section of the book reminds Allison where she left off. While reading the book aloud she begins typing again.

ALLISON: Developmental psychologists explore changes associated with mental, social, and emotional development as students co-exist in dorms, residences and other form of shared living. The purpose of which has been to determine if there is...

Jared pokes his head into Allison's room.

JARED: Allison, we're going to get some late-night Thai, wanna come?

ALLISON: Aww Jer! Don't ask me that, I have so much work to do tonight.

JARED: Oh come on... It's Thai... you can't resist such a spicy temptation...

ALLISON: (laughs) You sound like an infomercial.

Jared chuckles as he enters Allison's room; he continues his Thai food pitch.

JARED: Allison, I believe that this - what might be the most important meal of your life - could be the answer to any and

all problems you ever had!

ALLISON: I wish... Jared, I'm starving but I really shouldn't. I haven't done any research for this essay so I'm just filling gaps between my own thoughts and a few excerpts from this psych book - If I leave it now I'll forget what little sense I was trying to make...

Jared looks over Allison's shoulder.

JARED: Be careful not to fill those gaps too much...

Allison recognizes Jared's concern and they catch themselves in an awkward pause.

SANFORD: (from out of room)  
Jared, come on! My stomach is eating  
itself!

Jared heads back to the door.

JARED: We'll bring you back some take out... I'll leave it in the fridge if you've gone to bed by the time we get back.

ALLISON: Thanks Jer, I'll be careful. But I'll probably still be up - I'm only half done this thing.

Jared leaves the room and Allison returns to her glowing screen.

Allison sighs. Now that the house is empty the late hour seems to be catching up with her. The clock on her desk fades to 12:00am, 12:10, then 12:15. Allison's head begins to droop. And just as soon as her eyes shut she hears a voice. Suddenly Allison sits up and realizes she's in her psychology professor's office. The nameplate on the desk reads, "Dept. of Psychology." The voice continues.

PROFESSOR: Allison. I want to give you the benefit of the doubt. But I'm concerned about the results I got back when I ran your essay through a web search.

ALLISON: Whait a minute...

Allison ponders her surroundings.

ALLISON: Is this one of those premonition style dreams? Oh man,

I don't have time for this. I've got to wake up..

Allison looks around in a panic.

PROFESSOR: Allison, it would seem you forgot to cite almost half of this essay.

Allison decides to play along in hopes she can get this over with.

ALLISON: Oh... right... I must have forgotten.

PROFESSOR: I'm sorry but it seems to be a little more than that. I'm going to have to fail this essay...

Allison is surprised at the seriousness of the situation. She struggles to find an explanation for her actions.

ALLISON: What? What do you mean? I don't even remember what I wrote! I was really busy when I wrote that, I might have just unintentionally merged a few of my ideas with a book I had. I'm much less busy now, I can re-write it... I'll have it done for tomorrow, or tonight... I'll go home and do it right now... I'll stay up all night if I have to...

PROFESSOR: Allison I'm sorry. But unfortunately because you plagiarized it's not possible for you to do a re-write. You might not fail the class but a disciplinary notice will be added to your transcript - which is the minimum penalty for plagiarism... I can, however, offer you some rolls. They're hot and spicy!

Suddenly Allison hears Jared's voice. She opens her eyes and lifts her head off the keyboard.

JARED: Allison... are you still awake?

Jared has entered the room. Allison stretches and turns to face Jared.

JARED: I got you rolls! Sssspicy! ... and they're still warm.

ALLISON: Hey, thanks for waking me! I was having such a weird dream. I was my professors office... in trouble for this essay...

JARED: Wow, that's pretty cliché.

ALLISON: Yeah, tell me about it...

Again, they share an awkward pause. Jared decides to break the silence.

JARED: Well, you really should watch what you're writing - especially if you're rushing.

ALLISON: I know, I know. I'm just not used to all this work. It kind of snuck up on me... you know...

JARED: Do I ever... If I had known about all the resources and support services Ryerson offers I might have had more than 3 hours of sleep in my first semester!

Allison smiles. Jared takes a closer look at her essay.

JARED: Well, do you need any help? What's the essay topic?

ALLISON: Developmental Psychology... I didn't think I'd need to cite stuff from this book because I already wrote an essay just like this in high school - I just need to fill the gaps... you know...

Though that seems to be taking even longer...  
Jared stops to ponder his thoughts for a second.

JARED: Yunno, I wrote an essay on that topic last year. I got a B. If you're really struggling with deadlines I can just give you my essay... it's got footnotes, a bibliography... will that help?

Allison looks up for a brief moment of relief. But suddenly Nikki suddenly pokes her head in the room.

Nikki, holding a noodle box, and Sanford eating a roll, enter Allison room.

NIKKI: Jared, are you insane? You'd not only be substituting one disaster for another, but you'd be getting yourself in trouble too!

With a full-mouth, Sanford agrees.

SANFORD: Yeah, aren't we supposed to be demonstrating a guide to academic integrity here? Isn't that, in fact, the reason for our very existence?!

For a moment Jared looks clueless, until he looks at the viewer

and candidly smiles.

NIKKI: Allison, this is your first year;  
have you read the Student Code of  
Academic Conduct?

Allison looks up innocently.

NIKKI: Jared, have you?!

JARED: Of course I have! ...wait, what class was that for?

NIKKI: The "Ryerson" class!

Jared completely missed Nikki's sarcasm.

JARED: Hmm, not sure I had that one. I've got enough reading for my other classes! Who has time...? Besides, this is only the first episode.

Sanford speaks with his mouth half full of food.

SANFORD: But it's supposed to be your 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Ryerson...

Well anyway, if you haven't then you should have at least known that you can't offer your essay to Allison... right?!

Jared glances at Allison and looks as puzzled as ever.

SANFORD: Wow. You guys are lucky I ate... I mean 'accidentally' ate two of Nikki's rolls - otherwise she might have not overheard your conversation.

ALLISON: Wow, so this is pretty serious stuff

JARED: I guess so... but I wish could still help... your room smells like vanilla...

Allison looks up at Jared and smiles.

ALLISON: Thanks Jared, I could still really use it.

NIKKI: Well that's sweet. But if you really want to help you should check out all the Ryerson services online first.

Nikki types in a few URL's into Allison's laptop.

NIKKI: There's Ryerson's learning success site.

The tutor registry... Oh and hey, check out RefWorks... this will save you tons of time when you write essays. Of course, the Ryerson library...

Sanford's chewing begins to overpower Nikki.

Jared conspicuously shoves Sanford.

JARED: Do you mind?

SANFORD: Oh, so now you're Mr. Academic Integrity.

JARED: That's "MR. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY"...

Sanford looks at Jared funny. Jared looks confused.

SANFORD: Right.

JARED: Whatever! If I want to help Allison... I need to know this stuff, right?

Sanford smiles.