

THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"Episode 5"

by

DMP

Sanford, Jared and Allison are sitting in the living room. Sanford is eating a sandwich while watching Jared and Allison play Jenga. It's Jared's turn and he's carefully pulling a block from the tower. Allison watches in anticipation - if he gets this block he may win. Suddenly the sound of the front door startles Jared. The table shakes and the tower comes crashing down. Nikki has just come home.

NIKKI

Anyone home?

Jared sits, staring at the fallen blocks. Thanks to Nikki, Allison wins again. Sanford tries to laugh but chokes a little on his mouth-full.

JARED

Wait... wait a minute that's not fair.

NIKKI

Hello? ...Jared

ALLISON

Yeah Nikki, we're here - in the living room.

Jared accepts his loss as Nikki enters the room. Sanford swallows his last bite.

SANFORD

Hey Nikki, you just missed the funniest thing...

ALLISON

Yeah, I just beat Jared at Jenga for the 4th time tonight!

Jared jokingly turns to Nikki.

JARED

Yeah, I have you to thank for that...

NIKKI

What? What are you talking

about? Jared I'm really not
in the mood.

JARED

Uh-oh...

ALLISON

Jared, be quiet!
What's the matter Nikki?

NIKKI

Oh it's nothing... I don't
want to talk about it...

SANFORD

Aww, are you sure?

JARED

Yeah, I sure hope there's a
good reason you stormed in
like that...

ALLISON

Jared!

JARED

Sorry, sorry! Really, I was
just kidding. Are you sure
we can't help with anything?

NIKKI

Oh guys... I'm... I'm just having
trouble with my lab partners...

Nikki pauses for a moment.

NIKKI

I just don't know what to
tell them.

SANFORD

About what? What do you mean?

NIKKI

It's kind of hard to explain...
It's just that we have so
much work right now and one

my lab partners has this idea that could help ease our workload.

JARED

What's wrong with that? You have been working really hard lately...

NIKKI

Well it's not that simple Jared. This is what I mean... it's hard to explain.

SANFORD

No, no, it's okay Nikki - I get ya.

NIKKI

See, its not that I don't want to lighten my workload; it's the way they're suggesting we do it.

ALLISON

Wait a minute... I think I know what you're getting at. They aren't trying to get a different person to write the lab each week, and then the rest just copy from each other are they?

NIKKI

Well... kind of.

SANFORD

Well is it, or isn't it?

Nikki looks a little embarrassed, but continues to justify her concerns.

NIKKI

Auuh, I guess... yeah that's pretty much it. But it's mostly just one of them... and he's doing a really good job of convincing the others. And maybe he has a point... we *would* all be

doing the same report... should we
all write our own version of it?

Jared briefly interrupts Nikki.

JARED

Yeah? I'm still not seeing the
down-side to this? You'd still be
doing the lab as a group, right?

NIKKI

-- But we *would* be *copying* each
others' reports...

JARED

Hmm. But you just said they'd be
the same? Besides, it sounds like
you're not getting along too well
with the group... If they can't
manage their time well enough why
should you have to work with them?

Sanford is surprised with Jared's ignorance.

SANFORD

Whoa man, remind me not to work
with you on any projects...

Jared sports an innocent smile.

ALLISON

Hey! Jared's knows his stuff -
we've been working together for
a while now...

SANFORD

Fine. I take it back.
-for now!

But seriously Nikki, don't think
this'd be a one-time deal...

NIKKI

I know, I know... But I'm not the
one that needs a lesson in
academic integrity...

SANFORD

-Well then you really don't
have a problem, do you?

Allison notices the escalating argument and interrupts with
her sentiments.

ALLISON

Easy guys!
Nikki, I understand where you're
coming from. And Sanford, you're
right; these things have a way of
perpetuating themselves if you
don't deal with them right away.

Allison pauses for a moment.

ALLISON

Yunno, I dealt with a similar
situation in my program last year.

JARED

You did?

Allison jokingly remarks,

ALLISON

Yes Jared - there was life before
you...

Nikki is eager to hear Allison's story.

NIKKI

What happened? What did you do?

ALLISON

Well, it didn't start the same...
but we were all really busy and
this one girl kept missing our
group meetings. But then one day
She finally shows up with a
finished copy of our report...

NIKKI

Hmm... that's suspicious?

ALLISON

Yeah, that's right.
Turns out this was a report
from a previous year.
She claimed it got an A.

SANFORD

Whoa... serious stuff.

ALLISON

Tell me about it...
Anyway, the group didn't seem
too opposed to the idea... we
were all really stressed - I
think it was exam time or
something.

SANFORD

Well, that really isn't an
excuse...

NIKKI

Yeah, I mean, we all have to
manage our time... and there are
tons of Ryerson resources that
can help. But go on... what

happened?

ALLISON

Well, I think I felt the same
way you do now: a little
uncomfortable... You know the
right thing to do, but you're
not sure how to approach the
situation...

Nikki feels a little relief through Allison's experience -
she relaxes a little more.

NIKKI

That pretty much covers it...

JARED

But what did you do...

ALLISON

Actually nothing...

SANFORD

What? You went along with it...

ALLISON

No, no! Of course not!
Fortunately another group was
caught doing the same thing
just as I was going to confront
our group.

JARED

(half laughing)
... fortunately for you... not for
them.

ALLISON

Well... yeah...
Anyway, it turned out that not
only did the group get a zero,
but they also had a disciplinary
notice added to their transcript.

JARED

Wow... that IS serious.

NIKKI

Yeah, try applying to grad school with
that on your transcript!

Jared jokingly responds,

JARED

Oh I got it... but do you?

Not amused, Nikki responds to Jared,

NIKKI

Obviously! But I still have a
group to convince...

SANFORD

Well... the punishment shouldn't
be the only reason not to try
something like that... I actually
want to get something

out of my program... even when I'm maxed out. I mean, to me, I don't see it like I'd be saving time, or doing a quarter of the work; I see it as I'd be missing out on three quarters of the education... or only getting 25% of the stuff I need to know for the final exam.

JARED

Good call Sanford...
Makes sense to me; school isn't just about the grades - its about cramming your head with knowledge and useful skills for the future!

SANFORD

... Plus, I'm sure there's another person in your group who feels the same as you.

ALLISON

Hey, yeah! That reminds me... after that other group got caught this guy in my group mentioned how relieved he was that he didn't have to go along with that scam in our group.

SANFORD

Yeah, see what I mean?
Don't stress it Nikki. Just be honest about your feelings.
Everyone is responsible for their own actions, even when working in groups...

NIKKI

You're right, that makes a lot of sense. Thanks guys. I'm glad we talked about this. I know what I have to do.

SANFORD

Hey no problem! At the very least, I'm sure they're willing to hear you out - after all, I'm sure your

program has just as much, if not more,
academic integrity as mine does.

ALLISON

Hey, since that incident, the
students in our program have really
turned things around - we pride
ourselves on having the most
academic integrity.

JARED

That's only because the business
program could populate a city block...

NIKKI

Speaking of blocks...

Nikki sits down next to Jared, in front of the Jenga game.

NIKKI

... how many business students
would it take get the tower this
tall...

ALLISON

Hey, we don't build the towers...
How many of you engineering kids
would it take?

NIKKI

Well if you accept my challenge,
we can find out!

Jared laughs.

SANFORD

Hey, this is getting good!
Jared, you might want to give
them some room...

ALLISON

Oh no, we're all in this together.

JARED

Alright then, lets do this!

