

## Causes of Academic Dishonesty

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Today, I would like to lead you to a serious and thought-provoking topic—**Academic dishonesty**. Although this concept is recognized as a horrible and dangerous “power line” for the academic society, unfortunately, it is still not uncommon to discover this kind of misconduct in our daily life. Now the problem lies in that how this behavior happens? More specifically, which thing or person is to be blame for this action?

Tracing deep causes can help us obtain access to ultimate solutions. *On one hand*, when a student conducts dishonest behaviors, undoubtedly, the biggest problem comes from himself or herself. [Such individual’s problems include *performance anxiety*, *self-justification habits* and *excuse making*.] First and foremost, anxiety about academic performance, such as the fear of avoid failing a course or receiving a bad grade, may lead to cheating naturally. Furthermore, several students engage in *self-talk* to justify their actions to themselves, even though those actions may not be appropriate. Besides, some students make various excuses for their cheating, especially the complain about their “difficult” assignments ordered by professors. In fact, no matter what the impulse a student has who decides to conduct academic dishonesty, they must *overcome their own conscience* before they can cheat. That is, as some psychological experts say, the power of “**neutralization**”, which can weaker one’s guiltiness when cheating.

*On the other hand*, the influence of the environment and social context can not be denied. One of the most essential cause is *Peer pressure*. Students can pressure other students to conduct academic dishonesty in many ways, including pressuring others to work together or split assignments when the cooperation is prohibited, engaging in academic dishonesty as a group and helping friends on assignments or exams. Moreover, *Situations that encourage academic dishonesty* can be dangerous. When academic policies about what students can or cannot do is not clear, or when the academic integrity standards have loopholes, some students may seek the chance to commit academic dishonesty. And if the penalties are minimal, some students may even consider cheating to be worth the risk of being caught.

In a nutshell, it can be clearly observed that the incentives to academic dishonesty can be multiple and complex. Personal, environmental and ethical problems should all be given enough attention.

Thanks a lot for your listening! Any question will be warmly welcomed now.