

Self Plagiarism Vignette Transcript

INT. CLASSROOM – DAY

KATE and LAUREN are studying late in a classroom, books spread across their desks. Lauren is pacing, stretching her legs.

LAUREN

Have you started the English paper yet? Ten pages on surrealism... I don't even know how I'm going to have time to do all of this.

KATE remains mostly focused on the book in front of her.

KATE

I'm actually more worried about this COMM project. I wrote a five page surrealism paper for a philosophy class last year, so I'm going to build off that to get started on this one.

LAUREN

Oh... are you allowed to do that?

KATE looks up.

KATE

What? Yeah, it's my paper.

LAUREN

Sure, but... don't you think you should check with the professor about using it?

KATE

What would it matter? It's my own work, its not like I'm stealing someone else's.

LAUREN

Sure... but don't you think our professor might have a problem with it?

KATE

Well, maybe if I just handed in the same paper again, yeah, but I'm going to expand on it, and revise it. I'll have to. This paper is twice as long. I'm just using my other work as a base.

LAUREN

I guess it's like an author building off his old work for a new book.

KATE

Yeah.

LAUREN

But doesn't the author have to cite his old book?

KATE

They have to cite their own work?

LAUREN

I think so, if they're directly building off of it.

KATE

But, isn't this the same as using my own knowledge, isn't that what we're supposed to do, build on what we've already learned? It's not like I'd have to cite every class where I ever learned about surrealism.

LAUREN thinks for a moment.

LAUREN

But... you're building on the paper itself, not your knowledge. I just think there'd be a real issue with it. I mean, if you were using your research or your notes, that would be fine... but there should be an original writing for each class. And if you get around some of it, it just doesn't seem right.

KATE

It seems pointless to start from scratch when I've already done all that work on my own.

LAUREN

You just have to do the work that's assigned for each class. Maybe if you talk to the professor about it he'd be okay with it. It just seems like you if you don't you'd get in trouble.

KATE

How would anyone ever find out?

LAUREN

Yeah... but still, is it really the right thing to do?