

Round 1



Academic Integrity Conundrum: The Case of AI Use and Academic Integrity Policy

PLAINTIFF'S CONFIDENTIAL FACTS: Dr. Cacti

Dr. Cacti is conscious about the community's possibly strong disapproval toward the school administration if Robin is punished too severely for a policy that may be interpreted as ambiguous. Sonoran Valley is revered for its academics; however, it is also recognized for its fairness and openness in embracing new teaching methods. The school board has yet to create a policy regarding the use of artificial intelligence in the classroom. They are cautious about setting a negative precedent by prohibiting this technology, particularly considering that a teacher initially permitted its use. They think this would reflect negatively on the school if this case went public and thus want to keep this matter private between Robin and Sonoran Valley.

Robin's parents also have a strong tie with the community. The school does not want the community to question the school's long-standing reputation for academic excellence and is willing to find alternatives to Robin's punishments. However, the school remains firm that Robin still acted outside of their teacher's instructions and believes this act is subject to some form of punishment. The school is aware, however, that Mr. Ocotillio never said the use of AI for researching sources was not allowed.

This deviation alone could justify the school's decision if they were to uphold Robin's suspension and maintain the zero percent on their final assignment. The school also recognizes that Robin has never had any academic infractions and is an exemplary role model for younger students at the school. Thus, the administration is open to alternatives. They are open to allowing Robin the chance to rewrite the assignment, granted it is a whole new topic, but only if Robin signs an additional student conduct agreement promising not to violate the academic integrity policy for the remainder of their time.

The school is also concerned if they punish Robin with this suspension that it will have ramifications on the student's admittance to an ivy league college, which they do not want. The administration is willing to remove the suspension and offer "in-school" detention if Robin's parents agree that Robin dedicate a minimum of 30 hours of community service to the school. There are various ways to fulfill this community service, according to A.R.S. 15-841(I). One way is through the school's new freshman-senior program that pairs freshmen with senior volunteers as a way ease their entrance into their new school. If students see Robin volunteer for this program, the school thinks it would garner support from the rest of the upperclassmen. Thus the

more hours the school can get Robin's family to agree to, the more benefit it will have on the school's new program. However, participation in this program is not required as part of meeting those community service hours.

Finally, considering Robin's history of outstanding academic performance, the nature of the alleged violation, which does not constitute cheating on a test, and the novel issue involving artificial intelligence, the school administration proposes Robin, and their parents sign a non-disparagement agreement to ensure this matter is handled confidentiality and the school's reputation maintained. Dr. Cacti and their counsel are also open to other creative solutions from Robin and their parents to get this matter resolved.