Ocular Roaming: Can we get Away with it?

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Disclosures

- Hello, my name is Barbara and I’m a cheater
- Pencil, Paper & Pop Quiz
- What possessed me?
NBME and Deeper

- NBME
- Formal Assignments
- Presentations
- On-line Resource Risks

On-Line Resources

- Syllabus
- Grades
- Presentations
- Exam Software
Research

- Personal vs. situational
- Survey-based research
- Giving or receiving illicit information

Intrinsic/Extrinsic Motivation

- Intrinsically (learning-oriented)
- Extrinsic (performance/grade-oriented)
Neutralizing Attitudes

- Justifications
  - Avoiding “moral culpability for criminal actions”
  - Earlier neutralizing attitudes have a direct correlation with later cheating
  - Allows rationalization
  - Does not cause but enables

(1)

Cheating Culture

- Peers
- Witnessing vs. social context

(1)
Situational Factors

- Acquiring vs. providing
  - Selflessness
  - Selfishness
- Exam
- Plagiarism

(1)

Conclusion

- Multifaceted
- Individualized
- Evolving
The Key Stakeholders

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Who

- The three key stakeholders:
  - Student
  - Proctor
  - Institution

- This section will discuss the role each stakeholder plays and their relevance to cheating; while addressing how environment, competitive ranking and the pressure of medical school can influence the desire to cheat.
Student

Did I do that?

Factors that make cheating appealing and possible:

- Pressure
- Burn out
- Illusion
- Denial
- Proof
- Lack of Reporting

(4, 5, 8, 10, 16)
What Do I Do?

- Risk vs. Reward

Risk
- Getting caught
- Embarrassment
- Family disgrace
- Failing exam
-Dismissed from medical school

Reward
- Finishing at the top of their class
- “Top Gunner”
- Being a part of the ‘norm’
- The need to succeed
- Getting into a better residency program

FAILING
(4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 16)

PASSING
Proctor

- A person appointed to keep watch over students at examinations.

- An official charged with various duties, especially with the maintenance of good order.

(9)
To Report or Not Report: That is the Question

- Proctors face the decision of deciding whether or not to report incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fulfillment of role</td>
<td>Backlash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following policy and regulations</td>
<td>Did I see what I thought I saw?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protocol</td>
<td>Self Guilt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrity</td>
<td>Testimony</td>
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(6, 7)
The Proctor’s Will

- Will I feel supported and protected by my institution?
- Will there be any lingering effects in my interactions with students?
- Will my safety be in jeopardy?
- Will my disclosure actually make any difference?

(6, 7)
University Maintains

- Professionalism
- Credibility
- Reputation
- Reporting incidents
  (5, 8, 10, 11, 12)

Conclusion

- Know the Policy
- Reduce the occurrence
- Perception
- Establish an environment of “professionalism”
  (5, 7, 10, 11, 12)
Observation

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Learning Objectives

- Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) will be utilized as an observation technique to recognize suspicious behavior related to cheating.
- Be able to identify the importance of psychological safety within an organizational culture.
- Learn how multitasking can create attention blindness and how it directly affects the importance of proctoring.
Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)

- Creators: Abigail Housen and Philip Yenawine
- “…naming what one sees—to complex interpretation on contextual, metaphoric and philosophical levels. Many aspects of cognition are called upon, such as personal association, questioning, speculating, analyzing, fact-finding, and categorizing” (15).
where do we go from here?
Psychological Safety

“In psychologically safety environments, people believe that if they make a mistake others will not penalize or think less of them for it. They also believe that others will not resent or humiliate them when they ask for help or information. This belief comes about when people both trust and respect each other, and it produces a sense of confidence that the group won’t embarrass, reject, or punish someone for speaking up” (13)

Team Psychological Safety

Team Psychological safety: group level construct of people focusing on common experiences rather than focusing on individual needs (13).
Our Actions Determine How Others View Us

- Ignorant
- Incompetent
- Negative
- Disruptive

Benefits of Psychological Safety

- Encourages speaking up
- Enables clarity of thought
- Supports productive conflict
- Mitigates failure
- Promotes innovation
- Removes obstacles to pursuing goals for achieving performance
- Increases accountability

(13)
Increase Accountability

“…most people are well aware of where they fall in the power of hierarchies at work. In addition, their position shapes their perceptions of how safe it is to take interpersonal risks within their team or group…Those lower in the hierarchy frequently encounter opportunities to ask questions or to offer ideas. Leaders must ensure that they are able to do both” (13).

The More You Concentrate the More You Miss
Multitasking

“…not only is attention learned behavior, but it is shaped by what we value, and values are a key part of cultural transmission, one generation to another. The absorption of those values into our habitual behavior is also biological. We change brain pathways, and we make neural efficiencies when we learn. That is the physiology of attention blindness. Of course those values change with time and circumstances” (14).

Attention Blindness

“…attention blindness is located deep within the brain and nervous system. If things are habitual, we do not pay attention to them—until they become a problem. Attention is about difference. We pay attention to things that are not part of our automatic repertoire of responses, reflexes, concepts, preconceptions, behaviors, knowledge and categories and other patterns both mental and physical” (14).
Conclusion

- Applying critical thinking and observational skills through VTS while using the concept of teaming and attention blindness will become valuable assets for the administrative task of proctoring. We cannot control the actions of our students, but we do have control over ourselves. The level of responsibility, integrity, and ethical standards that we carry are core values that all proctors share.

References

8. Dans PE. Self-reported cheating by students at one medical school. Acad Med 1996;71:S70–S72
References