

ETHICAL DECISION MAKING

RESPONDING TO PLAGIARISM IN A POLICE LEADERSHIP COURSE

Johan Johnson is a lieutenant in the local police department. He has his hopes set on becoming a deputy chief. Along with 10 other officers, he is selected to participate in a leadership institute administered through a local university. He is honored to be in the program.

As part of the program, the officers are given assignments similar to those given in college courses. As a college graduate, he finds these assignments to be both challenging and rewarding. His current assignment requires him to identify two top police leaders and compare and contrast their backgrounds with their leadership styles. He works for days on end after his shift to complete the assignment.

When he is getting ready to turn in his assignment, one of Johan's fellow officers asks him to turn in her assignment for her because she has a meeting with the

chief scheduled. Johan places her folder in his briefcase and leaves for the training site.

After arriving at the training site, Johan reaches in to grab his fellow officer's assignment when two papers fall out of the folder she has given him. In looking at the papers, Johan realizes that his fellow student has plagiarized her assignment.

YOU DECIDE

1. Should Johan turn in his colleague for plagiarism? If so, should he tell the chief or just the instructor of the class?
2. What might be the consequences if Johan turns her in?
3. What might be the consequences if Johan does not turn her in?