Plagiarism Case Study: A Tale of Two Papers
Here is an example of an unacceptable student paper

Community

The community of Tuscaloosa has a population of approximately 202,212 people which 50.3% are male and 49.7% are female. The community is made up of 21.1% children and adolescence under the age of 18. The racial makeup is 31% Black or African American, 3.3% Hispanic or Latino of any race, 66% White, % from other races, 1.1% from two or more races, 1.5% Asian, 0.1% Native American and Pacific Islander. The mean income is roughly 45,408 and the poverty level is 18.9%

Demographic and Epidemiological Data

According to the State of Alabama, Alabama is the 5th most obese state in the U.S.. Currently 35% of the children in Alabama are overweight or obese. According to the 2008 Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNS) which assesses weight status of children from low-income families participating in WIC, 28.9% of low-income children age 2-5 are overweight or obese Alabama.

What’s wrong with this paper segment related to academic integrity?

- **Source not cited:** In paragraph one the student did not cite the source of the information.
- **Copied from another student’s paper:** In paragraph one the student copied the work of another student and simply changed the numbers and the county name.
- **Source unclear:** In paragraph two the student attempted to cite the source of the information, but the source was not cited correctly. The State of Alabama is vague. The exact agency should be used.
- **Used exact wording without quotation marks:** In paragraph two the last sentence used the exact wording from the source and did not have quotation marks.
- **References:** Student did not include a reference page.