

Case Study 2

On the day that a mid-semester group project was due in her large enrollment, non-majors course, Professor Sharon Washburn handed each group an evaluation sheet. She asked the groups to have a brief discussion about each member's contribution to the project, then fill out and sign the evaluation sheet on the basis of that conversation. Each group then attached the evaluation sheet to the project, and handed it in. The following day, Prof. Washburn received the following e-mail message from a member of one of the groups.

“Dear Professor Washburn:

I realize that you may not be able to do anything at this point, but I wanted to let you know what happened with our group project. Ashley, one of our group members, did nothing to help with the project. We invited her to group meetings but she kept giving us excuses for why she couldn't attend. In class when you handed out the evaluation forms, Ashley took charge of the sheet before we had a chance to talk, and gave everyone, including herself, full credit. I know we all signed it, but it's because she took us by surprise and we didn't know what else to do. I don't think it's fair that she's going to get the same grade as the rest of us – the rest of us worked hard to get it done.

Sincerely,
Beth Snyder – Group 14”