



FIFTH PLACE RECIPIENT

Sticking to What is Right

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Coming from an Asian household there was a sense of academic pressure on me to get good grades to make my parents proud. I faced a dilemma that really made me think if I should take the easy way and cheat or be academically honest and work for the grade.

It happened during my sophomore year and it was a week away from end-of-the-year finals. My mind was already thinking about summer break and I just wanted my sophomore year to be over. I had a chemistry quiz coming up and I needed to get a good grade on that quiz to maintain my current grade in that class but I didn't feel like studying for it. One day suddenly I got a text message from my phone. I looked at the message and saw it was a video with all the questions and answers that were going to be on the quiz seeing this made me think to myself if I should take the easy route and put all the correct answers on the one index card that was allowed to be used and get an easy A or stick to what is morally right and study and put information that would help me on the index card.

As the days passed and the quiz slowly approached this ethical dilemma was challenging for me to decide on what to do because the video was very tempting to use. I didn't need to study for it and use that time on something more enjoyable unlike studying or worrying about getting a grade I didn't like. I knew in my mind it was the wrong thing to do and got taught my whole life to do the right thing and never cheat. There are now a couple of days before the quiz and I decided to study for it legitimately and not use the video to my advantage because it made me think of the consequences if I did use the video and get

caught cheating I would get an automatic 0 on the quiz, my grade drops significantly, and my parents will know that I cheated on a test and will be disappointed in me. After taking the quiz it wasn't the desired grade I wanted but showed how much I controlled my temptation and stuck to my ethical values.

This ethical dilemma taught me how people experience dilemmas every day without even noticing it. At first, I didn't realize it was a dilemma until I really thought about what the serious consequences of cheating would be. Another thing I learned from this dilemma is that I should keep myself from doing the wrong thing because the idea of getting a good grade without even working for it was going to throw everything I ethically believed in away. This experience overall helped me improve my decision-making and helped me strengthen my ethical values.