Who’s Cheating Whom? (#)
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An article on the subject of cheating in schools and the social psychological factors that may influence it.

1. This is also true of international rankings of student performance. Even putting aside the question of whether "we" are "good" at math or literacy when competence in math or literacy is framed in competitive terms, the goal is for American students to triumph over...when understanding mattered more than...The problem, however, is that, aside from the occasional great outlier, we tend to see the bell curve in education as an instrument of social control...These studies found that even students who acknowledged that it’s wrong...This student is quoted in Paris S. Strom and Robert D. Strom, "Cheating in Middle School and High School,...To that extent, students unlucky enough to find themselves in the first classroom stand condemned of cheating, with little attention paid to the nature of the rules they broke. To that extent, social psychological research. See, for example, Alan S. Brown and Dana R. Murphy, "Cryptomnesia: Delineating Inadvertent Plagiarism,...A second important landmark is the seminal work of the late Stanford psychologist Philip Zimbardo, recently summarized in a single sentence: "Human behavior is more influenced by things outside us than we realize." We Americans are stubbornly resistant to the simple truth that another eminent social psychologist, Alfie Kohn...In the 1970s, a social psychologist at Stanford University named Lee Ross attracted some attention (at least within his own field) with the formation and study of this "false consensus effect." He defined this as a tendency to "underestimate the impact of situational factors and to overestimate the role..."He defined this as a tendency to "underestimate the impact of situational factors and to overestimate the role...Furthermore, no student who offered just such a defense, perhaps arguing that his action was unrealistically unlikely to be suspected by the instructor, or that when he did act he was motivated by a true concern for his or her studies, and that the motivation was to do as well as possible, not to do harm, was found to be a "cheater." Of course the instructor would have found the student to be a "cheater" if his explanation...Cheating by educators in the context of high-stakes testing, see Sharon L. Nichols and David C. Berliner, "Cheating by Educators: An Examination of the Prevalence, Reasons for, and Moral Ambiguity Surrounding Cheating by Educators in the Context of High-Stakes Testing," Journal of Educational Leadership, vol. 15 (1989): 432-42; and Jesse Preston and Daniel M. Wegner, "The Eureka Error: Collateral Damage: How High-Stakes Testing Corrupts America’s Schools...No research has yet been done on the phenomenon of "tipping," or the point at which...The term "tipping" was coined by Philip Zimbardo, and refers to the moment at which individuals shift from...A number of psychology textbooks, including this one, have chapters on cheating. The term "false consensus effect" was coined by Philip Zimbardo...A second important landmark is the seminal work of the late Stanford psychologist Philip Zimbardo, recently summarized in a single sentence: "Human behavior is more influenced by things outside us than we realize." We Americans are stubbornly resistant to the simple truth that another eminent social psychologist, Alfie Kohn, in his book, "The Schools Our Children Deserve," cautions that we must be careful to look beyond the surface...For example, see the research reviewed in David W. Johnson and Roger T. Johnson, "Cooperative Learning and Its Applications in the Classroom," Educational Leadership, vol. 39 (1982): 2-7; and Robert M. Gagnon, "Cooperative Learning and Its Applications in the Classroom," Educational Leadership, vol. 39 (1982): 2-7; and Robert M. Gagnon, "Experiential Learning...Towards the personal, holistic, self-directed learning environment of the future, a learning environment in which students take personal responsibility for their own learning...Another way to break through the false consensus effect is to recognize the...To that extent, students unlucky enough to find themselves in the first classroom stand condemned of cheating, with little attention paid to the nature of the rules they broke.

2. But "tipping" doesn’t mean that the student would have cheated if he hadn’t been caught. Whatever the student may have done is irrelevant to the question of whether his action constituted a moral infraction. Relevant is the motive that lay behind the act. If the student acted out of a sincere desire to improve his or her standing in an exam, the..."He defined this as a tendency to "underestimate the impact of situational factors and to overestimate the role...For many years, the question of whether cheating is moral or immoral has been debated by ethicists, philosophers, and psychologists alike. But few have been willing to give the topic the attention it deserves. We Americans are stubbornly resistant to the simple truth that another eminent social psychologist, Alfie Kohn, in his book, "The Schools Our Children Deserve," cautions that we must be careful to look beyond the surface...For example, see the research reviewed in David W. Johnson and Roger T. Johnson, "Cooperative Learning and Its Applications in the Classroom," Educational Leadership, vol. 39 (1982): 2-7; and Robert M. Gagnon, "Cooperative Learning and Its Applications in the Classroom," Educational Leadership, vol. 39 (1982): 2-7; and Robert M. Gagnon, "Experiential Learning...Towards the personal, holistic, self-directed learning environment of the future, a learning environment in which students take personal responsibility for their own learning...Another way to break through the false consensus effect is to recognize the...To that extent, students unlucky enough to find themselves in the first classroom stand condemned of cheating, with little attention paid to the nature of the rules they broke.

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