Chapter 10
Pop Quiz Debacle

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is now commonplace for students to bring PDAs and smart phones into the classroom, which gives them swift access to the internet. While this technology is a benefit for students conducting research for a project, it can also be detrimental for educators conducting assessments. “Pop Quiz Debacle” describes a particular quandary for educators who work with advanced placement or Gifted/Talented students. For students with a very high GPA and other academic performance, what distinguishes them is how perfect they are, so there’s no room for any kind of error. If there’s no room for error, students tend to cheat—even though these students would have done just fine on the test. They say they cheat because, “this is my safety net.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The vast advances in computer technology in recent years have changed the way we use computers. Gone are the days where you had to sit at a desk to operate a computer, nowadays you have powerful computer access in the palm of your hand. It is now commonplace for students to bring PDA’s and smart phones into the classroom which gives them swift access to the internet. While this technology is a benefit for students conducting research for a project, it can also be detrimental for educators conducting assessments. Additionally, the boundaries defining right and wrong are becoming blurred. Everyday the news reports of public figures involved in criminal activity, immoral activity or deceit. It seems that integrity is no longer revered in
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