



Online Ethics Center
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

Oops -- Broke Another One

Author(s)

Anonymous

Year

2000

Description

A scenario in which a graduate student repeatedly breaks expensive laboratory equipment.

Body

Terry is a graduate student in Professor Young's lab. Terry's research project requires use of delicate optical instrumentation. In the past year, Terry broke a notch filter and a dichroic mirror while handling them. Each of these components costs about \$500. After the second breakage, Professor Young warned Terry that he has limited grant funds and cannot continue to replace expensive optical components. Last week Terry was having a bad time and broke another notch filter.

What can/should Professor Young do?

Notes

Caroline Whitbeck introduced methods and modules for discussing numerous issues in responsible conduct of research at a Sigma Xi Forum in 2000. Partial funding for

the development of this material came from an NIH grant.

You can find the entire sequence on the OEC at [Scenarios for Ethics Modules in the Responsible Conduct of Research](#). Some information in these historical modules may be out-of-date; for instance, there may be a new edition of the professional society's code that is referred to in an item. If you have suggestions for updates, please contact the OEC.

Contributor(s)

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Rights

Use of Materials on the OEC

Resource Type

Open-ended scenario

Parent Collection

Scenarios for Ethics Modules in the Responsible Conduct of Research

Topics

Mentors and Trainees

Research and Practice

Discipline(s)

Computer, Math, and Physical Sciences

Engineering

Life and Environmental Sciences

Research Ethics

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