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*Whatever It Takes*

Academic dishonesty has been on the rise over the past decades and has become a serious problem in schools nationwide. This study was carried out to determine the prevalence of cheating in middle school. Students in grades 5th through 8th were randomly divided into four groups and were administered a short test. They were given the opportunity to cheat. Overall, 51% of the students involved in the study were dishonest. In the control group 40% of the students cheated. The experimental group was subdivided into three groups. The highest incidence of dishonesty was recorded in the reward group (81%). It was determined that peer pressure had a great influence on cheating. When students were subjected to negative peer pressure and were enticed to cheat, 69% of them did so. In the positive peer pressure group, when they were discouraged from cheating, only 19% of the students engaged in dishonest behavior. There wasn't a significant difference in cheating based on grade levels: 52% of 5/6 grade students cheated, and 51% of 7/8 graders cheated. The study also showed that there was a difference in cheating based on gender: males cheated more (62%) than females (42%). The present study indicated that reward and peer pressure had a tremendous impact on students' behavior in relation to academic misconduct. This study should raise awareness about the incidence of dishonest behavior among middle school students and offers some insight for cheating prevention strategies in academic settings.