Case 1 - Panic Attack

Frank was behind in his programming assignment. He approached Martin to see if he could get some help. But he was so far behind and so confused that Martin just gave him his code with the intent that he would "just look at it to get some ideas."

In the paraphrased words of Frank: "I started the assignment three days after you put it up. But then other assignments came in and I started on them too. I felt like I was chasing rabbits and began to panic. It was already past the due date and I got really scared. That's when I went to Martin to see if he could help." Frank copied much of the code and turned it in as his own.

Which, if any, of the students were at fault? Why?

What JMU Honor Code violations occurred? (refer to the Honor Code sheet)

What should Martin have done in this situation?

What options did Frank have besides cheating?

Case 2 - A Friend Indeed

Jeffrey was having trouble with one of the last programming assignments. He didn't even know where to begin and it was already late. Another student, Stephen, lived in his hall and Jeff was pretty friendly with him. Jeff went to Stephen's room and told him that his computer was acting flaky and could he borrow Stephen's to finish up the program? Stephen was on his way out to dinner and told him okay. When he got back Jeffrey was gone.

While Stephen was out, Jeffrey searched for and located the code for the assignment on Stephen's machine. Jeffrey copied it onto his flash drive and took it back to his room, where he modified the code a bit before submitting it for a grade.

Which, if any, of the students were at fault? Why?

What JMU Honor Code violations occurred? (refer to the Honor Code sheet)

What should Stephen have done in this situation?

What options did Jeffrey have besides cheating?

Case 3 - Oops

Emily was working in the lab on her programming assignment. She finally finished the program and submitted it and went on to do some other work. Shortly thereafter, she left the lab.

Another student, Kyle, was working nearby. He knew that she had successfully submitted the assignment, and he had not been able to get his to work properly. When Emily left, he noticed that she had not logged out of her computer. He moved to her workstation, found the work under her Documents directory, and copied it onto his memory stick. He then logged out, logged in as himself, and copied the code onto his Desktop where he modified the program a bit, then successfully submitted it.

Which, if any, of the students were at fault? Why?

What JMU Honor Code violations occurred? (refer to the Honor Code sheet)

What should Emily have done in this situation?

What options did Kyle have besides cheating?
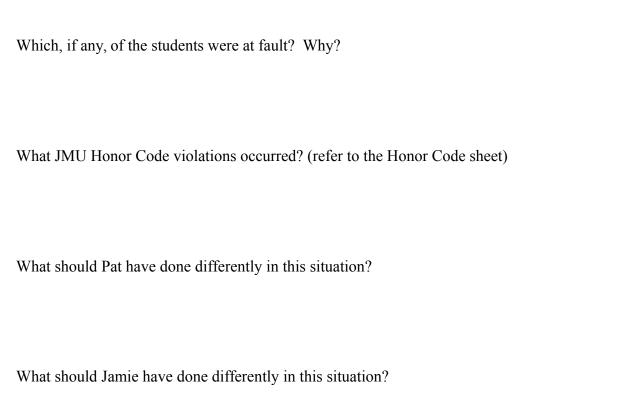
Case 4 - Too Close for Comfort

Bill and Jeff were two freshman rooming together in the fall semester and were taking CS 139. Bill was an excellent student for whom the work in CS 139 seemed to come easily. Jeff seemed to struggle a bit more, but was able to do the work and turned most labs and programs in on time.

Both programs came in looking virtually the same. When confronted, Jeff claimed the work as his own and stated that he did not know how the code from the roommates was the same. Later Bill told the professor that while programming was easy for him, he had struggled with another class and then got behind with this program. He didn't think the professor would find out and so stole his roommate's code and turned that in.

Which, if any, of the students were at fault? Why?

What JMU Honor Code violations occurred? (refer to the Honor Code sheet)

What should Jeff have done in this situation?

What options did Bill have besides cheating?

Case 5 - Let's Make a Deal

It was mid-semester and the pressure was on, not only in CS 139, but in other classes as well. Two students, Jamie and Pat were working on the programming test in the lab, but neither was having much success. Jamie had started the program days ago, but was having trouble debugging his current work. Pat had just started this day and knew that she would be late in turning it in. Pat offered to help Jamie work out the problems with his code. Together and after a couple of hours of work, they got the program to work. Pat said, "Now that yours is working, can you give me the code so that I can also get credit for this assignment." When Jamie objected, Pat said, "Hey, you wouldn't have gotten it finished if it weren't for my help, and now mine will be even later." So Jamie turned over a copy of the code. Pat made some changes to a few sections, and then turned the program in.

Which, if any, of the students were at fault? Why?

What JMU Honor Code violations occurred? (refer to the Honor Code sheet)

What should Pat have done differently in this situation?

What should Jamie have done differently in this situation?

Case 6 - A Friendly Assist

George was struggling with the latest programming assignment that was due to be submitted that night. He had gone home over the weekend, thinking that it would be easy to do this assignment, but it turned out to be more difficult than he thought. After working on some parts of it and giving up in frustration he turned to Shelley, a senior CS student who had taken 139 several semesters before. He showed Shelley the assignment and the two of them worked on it late into the night. It was successfully submitted with only a one day late penalty.

Which, if any, of the students were at fault? Why?

What JMU Honor Code violations occurred? (refer to the Honor Code sheet)

What should Shelley have done in this situation?

What options did George have besides cheating?

Case 7 - A Team Effort

Stan, Jane, and Tom were part of a project team. At the start of the semester they all agreed to be responsible for everything that was submitted by their project. As the project got underway, they divided up the work and decided to complete and submit the three parts individually. Tom was behind on his work as the deadline approached, and so as not to be late he copied several pages from files of a roommate who had completed the same work last year. The team project was submitted on time, though only 2/3 of it was original work.

Which, if any, of the students were at fault? Why?

What JMU Honor Code violations occurred? (refer to the Honor Code sheet)

What options did Tom have besides cheating?

Should all three students be penalized for plagiarism? Why or why not?