

**CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
IN-SERVICE FOR TEACHING ASSISTANTS AND GRADERS**

**What Should You Do?**

For each of the following situations (all real examples, we might add), answer these questions:

- A. What is the issue or dilemma presented by the situation?
- B. What should you do about the situation?

1. A friend wants extra help in writing a paper for the class in which you are the TA or Grader. You took the class last year, and did very well. You and your friend have worked together to complete assignments before, and it's always been a great relationship. Your friend asks to borrow your paper from last year, to "use as a guide."
2. A student in the class for which you are TA/Grader has a borderline grade. The student says he absolutely **MUST** pass the class. He offers to do your laundry, cook your meals, type your papers, give you tickets to a concert, or "do whatever" if only you will "make sure" he gets a passing grade.
3. Your supervising professor frequently talks with you about the performance of specific students in class. The professor initiates most of these discussions as you pass one another in the crowded hallway between classes.
4. It's been one of those days. Everything has gone wrong, and now you've lost your key ring -- the one with the set of keys to your office and the locking filing cabinet in it. You've looked everywhere and can't find the keys, but given your tight budget you certainly don't want to pay the fee for changing the locks.
5. Your supervising professor has asked you to organize the test forms and answer sheets for the next test. You're tired and want to go home where you can take a well-deserved nap and organize the materials later. You have a private room, and besides you know all your housemates are perfectly trustworthy.
6. It is getting to be a real pain, locking your office door every time you leave for a few minutes. Besides, other TAs and Graders are around all the time to watch over things.
7. You are on your way to class (about to be late!) when a student asks to borrow your keys for a minute so she can return a book to her TA's desk. The book's expensive and she doesn't want it stolen, but you can't be late for class because you are introducing an important guest speaker.
8. You and your officemates are working at your desks. A student from one of the other TA/Grader's classes comes in for an appointment. You tell the other TA/Grader that you are studying hard for an exam next hour and won't pay any attention to what they're discussing.
9. You are a night owl and much prefer to complete your TA/Grader work late at night or on the weekend when it's quiet. You ask to work in your on-campus office between 2:00 and 4:00 a.m., arguing that it shouldn't be a problem because you couldn't possibly be bothering anyone at that point.
10. You're an especially responsible, capable TA/Grader and complete all of the assignments your supervising professor gives you. In fact, you usually put in overtime hours -- lots of them? However, filling out your biweekly timesheet is a nuisance, a mundane task you usually forget to do.
11. The department administrative assistant has given you your code number for operating the copy machine in the office. It's so much more convenient to use this machine than the ones in the library. You decide to copy just a few personal items on the office machine.
12. You're really glad you've been selected as a TA/Grader. What an honor! However, the officemates you've been assigned are very inconsiderate. They're always talking and jabbering and playing practical jokes on each other. Lately, your office has been like Grand Central Station, seemingly a magnet for all passersby.
13. You and your officemates discover that the same ultra-annoying student is in all of the classes for which you are TAs/Graders. How could you not discuss this flamboyant, arrogant so-and-so?

14. Despite the long, overtime hours you already are working as a TA/Grader, your supervising professor keeps piling on the work. You begin to wonder: Is there life outside of the TA/Grader role?
15. Your supervising professor has asked you to run some small study sessions for students who are struggling in the class for which you are TA/Grader. You schedule the sessions in your shared office space. All the students know where that space is, and it's convenient for you.
16. It's the end of the year, and you are cleaning out your office. There are a few items you really could use at home -- a stapler, pens, notepads, etc. -- that were supplied by the department. Of course, they're "used" now, and besides, who's really going to miss them? Anyway, they're pretty meager compensation for all those overtime hours you devoted!