

Teaching Undergraduates About Academic Integrity in CourseWorks

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What is Academic Integrity?

Academic integrity defines a university and is essential to the mission of education.

At Columbia, students are expected to participate in an academic community that honors intellectual work and respects its origins. The abilities to synthesize information and produce original work are key components in the learning process.

History of the Honor Code and Pledge

In 2013, the Columbia College and Columbia Engineering Honor code was created through a student led initiative that began with the Columbia College Student Council Academic Integrity Task Force.

Today the Honor Code continues to shape the academic culture of Columbia College and Columbia Engineering.

Columbia's Academic Integrity Values

Our school's Academic Integrity values are:

- Honesty
- Trust
- Fairness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Courage



These six fundamental values directly apply to our academic community (International Center on Academic Integrity, 2022)

Campus & Academic Resources

Throughout the tutorial, students were introduced to Columbia's campus resources as well as academic and career support resources.

Below is a selected list of resources that students were introduced to:

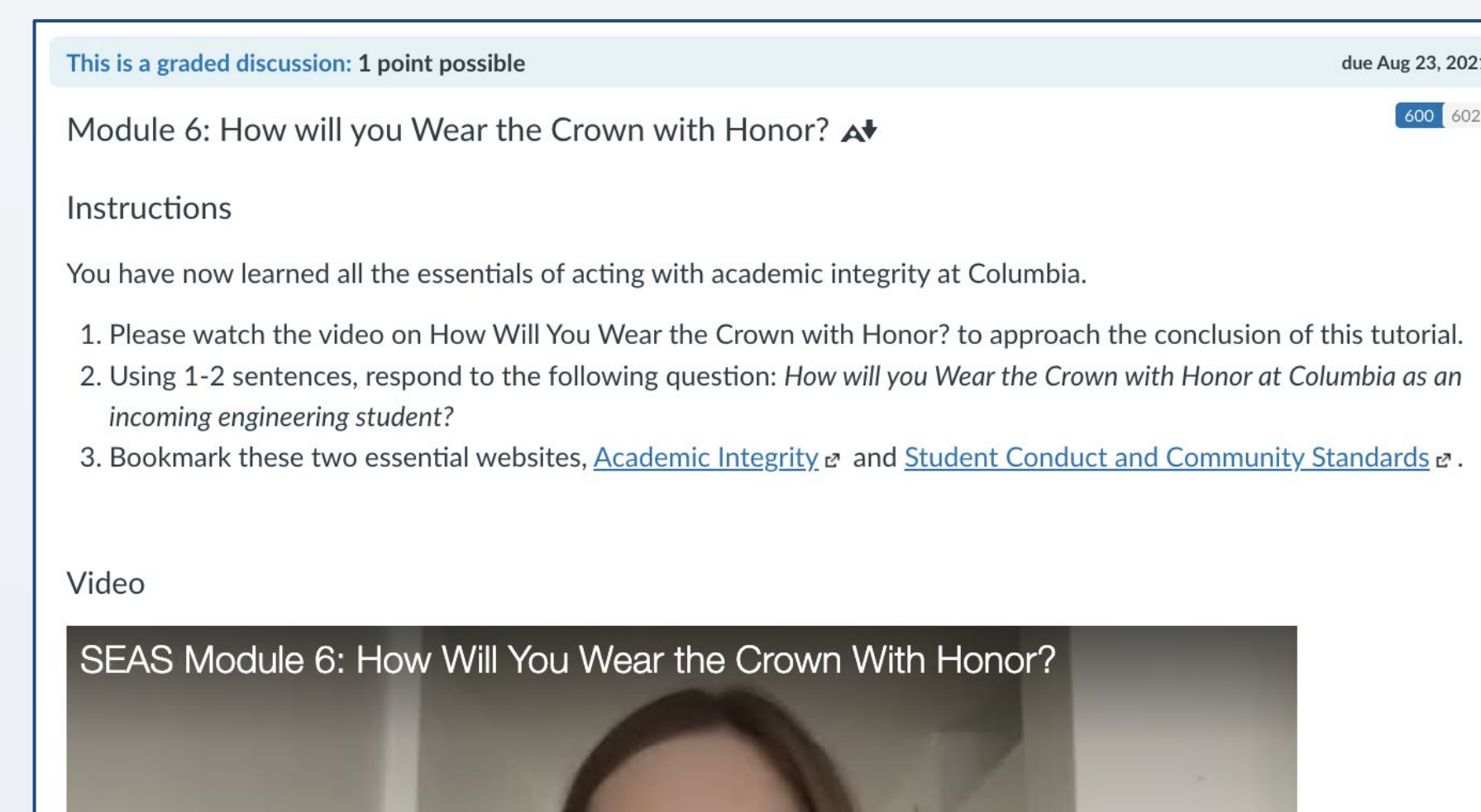
- Professors and Teaching Assistants
- Writing Center
 - Writing Center Director Interview encouraged students to engage with writing support
- Berick Center for Student Advising (CSA)
- Help Rooms
- Columbia Libraries
- Live Well | Learn Well
- Student Conduct & Community Standards (SCCS)
- Center for Career Education
 - New interviews with alumni and the Center for Career Education provided incoming students with an understanding of integrity in the workplace.



Undergraduate Honor Code and Pledge
Photo Credit: Timothy Lee

CourseWorks Revisions

- The CourseWorks site was originally created in 2019 and due to the pandemic and needs for new materials there were several revisions made to improve the course content.
 - New student characters were created in 4 case studies where each scenario presented ambiguous academic integrity decisions.
 - We focused on positive psychology choices: how can the student see both heroic and potential negative impacts.
- Used Articulate Storyline software
 - Aimed for diverse representation in characters and character portrayal.
- Revised discussion forums to invite students to share brief thoughts on resources and student success strategies.
- Students electronically signed the Honor Code Pledge Cards online instead of paper pledge cards.



Discussion instructions as on CourseWorks site

Student Engagement

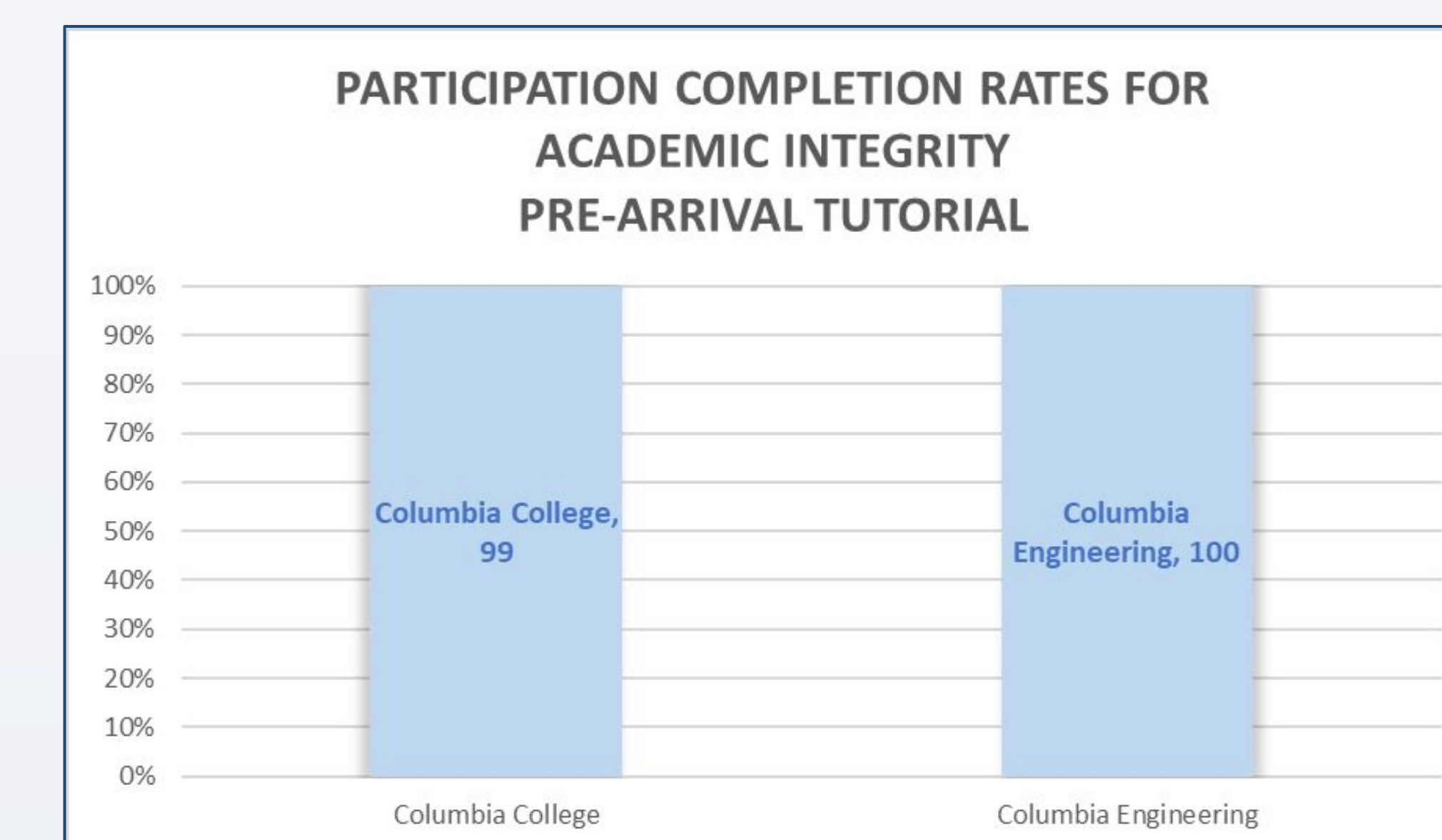
Students were offered multiple opportunities for engagement throughout the modules through written reflections and surveys.

Resource Planning

"The academic resource that I will use the most...at Columbia is office hours, I will attend as many office hours as possible, even if I don't need help with anything." Columbia College 1st year

How Will You Wear the Crown with Honor?

"I will wear the crown with honor by trusting in myself and my abilities and reaching out to the resources provided by Columbia when my abilities just are not enough." Columbia Engineering Combined Plan student



Student Completion during the 2021-2022 Academic School Year

Learning Objectives

Students were asked to complete the Pre-arrival tutorial before starting classes in the Fall and were asked to:

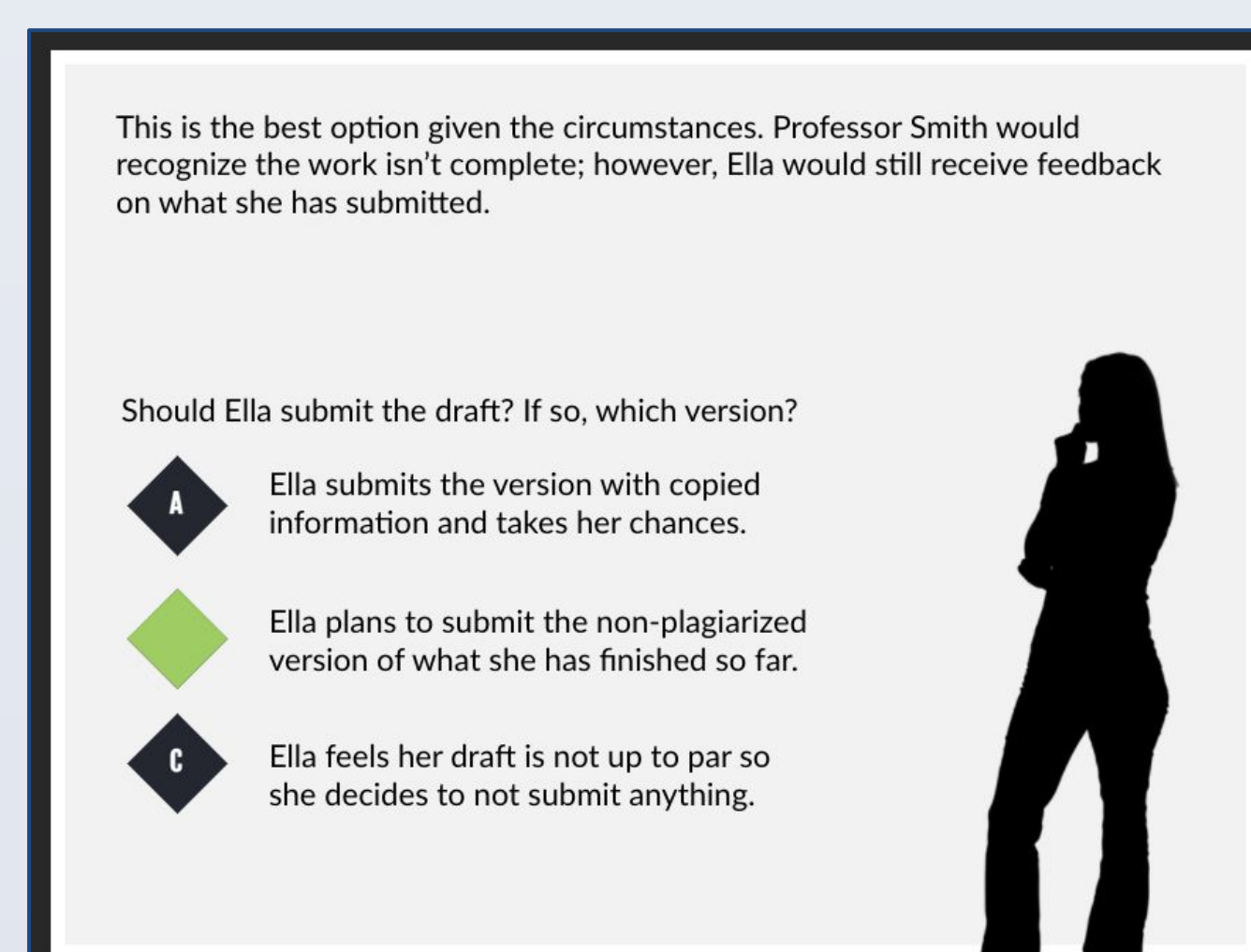
- Define in your own words what academic integrity means to you.
- Outline Columbia's academic integrity policies.
- Recognize when academic integrity issues arise in your own work and how to proactively avoid making a mistake.
- Communicate your issues to appropriate academic and campus resources.
- Learn the importance of asking for help when making choices to uphold integrity.
- Identify the essential academic support resources where you may need to reach out for assistance on academic life and academic integrity.
- Describe and pledge how you will "Wear the Crown with Honor" at Columbia.

Case Study Development

The goal of the case studies were to allow individual students to identify possible violations and determine their decision making regarding reaching out for support from Columbia resources.

Four new case studies were developed on based on actual integrity scenarios at Columbia, which included:

- Plagiarism (University Writing)
- Unauthorized Collaboration (Organic Chemistry)
- Violation of Test Conditions (Economics)
- Failure to Safeguard (Computer Science)

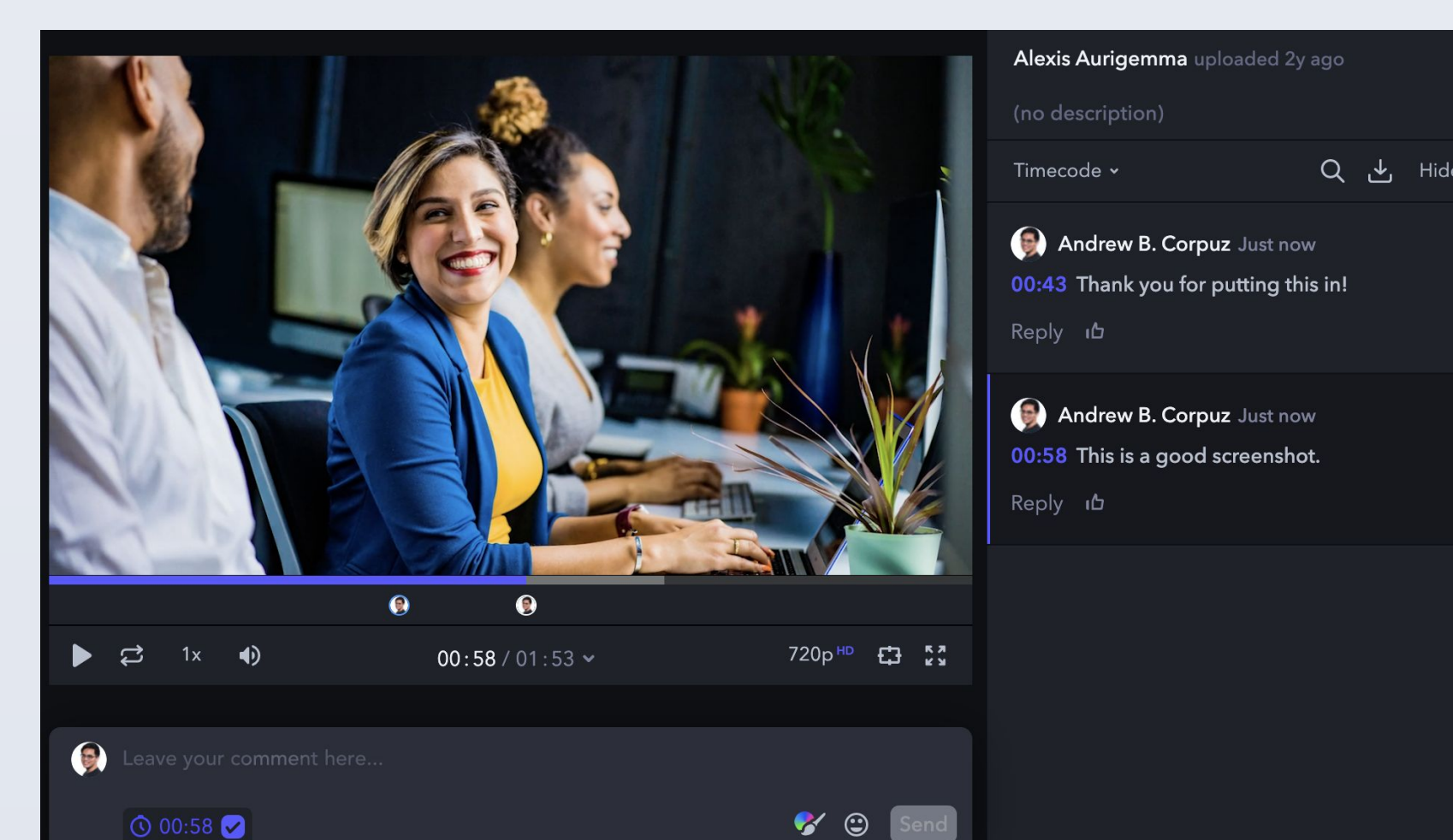


Example of Case Study 1: Plagiarism in University Writing

Academic Community Interviews

Director of Academic Integrity interviewed various members of the Columbia community including:

- Students
- Campus Partners
- Faculty
- Alumni



Screenshot of faculty member
Frame.io allowed for collaboration for video editing.

Next Steps

- Continue working with the Center for Teaching and Learning to make improvements to the Canvas site each class year.
- Update the videos with new campus scenes, new faculty, student, staff, and alumni voices post COVID.
- Use the existing survey and module data from the course to improve the interactions and usability of the site as a long term stable student resource.

Acknowledgments

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Reference

International Center on Academic Integrity (2022). Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity. (2nd ed.). (pp. 1-36). <https://academicintegrity.org/resources/fundamental-values>

Questions?

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