Dear GE301 Students,

I hereby enclosed two cases for your 2nd homework. I want you to choose one of the cases, then define the ethical issue about the case and answer the following questions which were written and bolded under the case.

I want you to limit your paper with 400-500 words. Wednesday groups will submit their homework on 30th October 2013, Friday groups on 8th November and Monday groups on 11th November 2013.

As the time allocated for this homework is considerably long, I want a sophisticated essay from you.

I wish you all a happy Bayram. Best regards, Yasemin
USAWAY

John Budinski, quality control engineer at Clarke Engineering, has a problem. Clarke contracted with USAWAY to the requirement that all parts are made in the United States. Although the original design clearly specifies that all parts must satisfy this requirement, one of Clarke’s suppliers failed to note that one of the components has two special bolts that are made only in another country. There is not time to design a new bolt if the terms of the contract are to be met. USAWAY is a major customer, and John fears that not meeting the deadline can result in unfortunate consequences for Clarke.

John realizes that the chances of USAWAY discovering the problem on its own are slim. The bolts in question are not visible on the surface of the product. Furthermore, it is highly unlikely that those who work on repairs will notice that the bolts are foreign made. In any case, Clarke is under contract to do any needed repairs. Meanwhile, it can work on a bolt design so that it will be ready with U.S. bolts when, and if, replacements are needed.

1. What possible courses of action are available to John Budinski?

2. What do you think he should do?
THE THESIS

Nelson Nice is on the engineering faculty at State University. Three years ago he headed a research project that involved an undergraduate student assistant. At first Jason Smart was enthusiastic about the project, and he certainly felt honored that Professor Nice selected him as his undergraduate assistant. However, as time passed Jason grew impatient with the laboratory work and write-ups. Nelson Nice found that he had to do more and more of the work himself. Eventually Jason Smart left the project—before the work was completed.

One year later Jason, then a graduate student at another university, wrote to Nelson Nice and asked him if he would send him a copy of the final report of the work they had done together. Jason explained that he had matured considerably since his undergraduate days and was now working in a related area. “Now”, he said, “I think I’m ready for more serious work. It would help me a lot if I could see how things finally worked out in the project.

1. Should Nelson Nice send the report to Jason Smart?

Nelson Nice was not anxious to share the report with anyone. Disappointed with the results of the research, Nelson had turned his attention elsewhere. As far as he was concerned, the project was dead. He also had to admit that he was still unhappy with Jason’s performance. Nevertheless, he was impressed with Jason’s acknowledgment of his earlier immaturity and his apparent desire to do serious work. So Nelson sent the report, pointing out to Jason that, although the research was now complete, it had not turned out as he had hoped, and that he had no plans to do further work in the area. He wished Jason well in his graduate work and hoped that this report might be of some help in giving him new ideas.

Several years later Nelson Nice discovered that Jason Smart used the report as his master’s thesis—adding only a couple of introductory paragraphs, a concluding section, and an updated bibliography. No reference to Nelson Nice appeared anywhere in the thesis!

1. What, if anything, should Nelson Nice now do about this?

2. Is there anything he could have done earlier that might have prevented this from happening?
3. What might he do in the future to decrease the chances of this sort of thing happening again?