Using SafeAssign

SafeAssign is a tool built in to Blackboard that checks a document against a variety of sources to identify matches. It is useful to prevent plagiarism, and also to help students learn how to properly attribute sources.

How does it work?
SafeAssign creates an **Originality Report** after checking student papers against:

- A comprehensive index of documents available for public access on the Internet
- A database with professional journals, periodicals and publications, updated frequently
- A global database of all papers submitted to Safe Assign

It does not check against textbooks due to copyright protection, or password-protected websites.

How do I have student papers submitted through SafeAssign?

To have all papers for a given Assignment submitted through SafeAssign, choose this option when setting up or editing an Assignment. You can choose to allow students to see their reports as well.
You can view an “Originality” report indicating the percentage of material that matches a published work, along with the relevant section of the published work. This allows you to quickly see whether material was properly quoted and attributed, and what percentage of student work is original.

It is up to you to interpret that report:
- Is the match acceptable? (a quote attributed to the correct source)
- Are the sources properly quoted, but the paper lacks sufficient original thought?
- Is the source cited, but the words either copied or too closely paraphrased?
- Is the language appropriated from some other source without any attribution?

Where can I find the Originality Reports?

In the Grade Center for each submission, you can open the SafeAssign tab, and then view the Originality Report.
Can I submit a single paper through SafeAssign?

Yes, you can submit a single paper to SafeAssign if you have questions about its authenticity.

In the Control Panel, select SafeAssign. Select “DirectSubmit” and upload the paper. The SafeAssign report will appear in this same location.

More information about SafeAssign is available at: [https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Assignments/Grade_Assignments/Grade_With_SafeAssign#grade_safeassign](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Assignments/Grade_Assignments/Grade_With_SafeAssign#grade_safeassign)

To help your students understand the SafeAssign report: [https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Assignments/Assignments_Using_SafeAssign/Submit_SafeAssignments](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Assignments/Assignments_Using_SafeAssign/Submit_SafeAssignments)

Health Sciences Programs
SMART Lab Guide, updated August 2018