

# SafeAssign Available in the Library

## Ask a Librarian for Assistance

Check your **DRAFT** papers for citation errors and paraphrasing problems that may result in inadvertent plagiarism. The SafeAssign Report will identify the problems in your DRAFT paper. This will give you an opportunity to correct the errors before submitting your paper to your instructor for a final grade.

### ***How SafeAssign Works:***

SafeAssign is based on a unique text matching algorithm capable of detecting exact and inexact matching between a paper and source material. Papers are compared against several different databases, including:

- **Internet** – comprehensive index of documents available for public access on the Internet;
- **ProQuest ABI/Inform database** with over 1,100 publication titles and about 2.6 million articles from 1990s to present time, updated weekly (exclusive access);
- **Institutional document archives** containing all papers submitted to SafeAssign by users in their respective institutions;
- **Global Reference Database** containing papers that were volunteered by students from Blackboard client institutions to help prevent cross-institutional plagiarism.

### ***SafeAssign Reports:***

Once a paper has been processed, a report is available that details the percentage of the submitted paper that matches existing sources. It also shows the suspected sources of each section of the submitted paper that returns a match. Because SafeAssign identifies all matching blocks of text, it is important to read the report carefully and investigate whether or not the block of text is properly attributed.

Sentence matching scores are the percentage probability that two phrases have the same meaning. This number can also be interpreted as the reciprocal to the probability that these two phrases are similar by chance. For example, a score of 90 percent means that there is a 90 percent probability that these two phrases are the same and a 10 percent probability that they are similar by chance and not because the submitted paper includes content from the existing source (whether or not it is appropriately attributed).

Overall score is an indicator of what percentage of the submitted paper matches existing sources. This score is a warning indicator only and papers should be reviewed to see if the matches are properly attributed.

- Scores below 15 percent: These papers typically include some quotes and few common phrases or blocks of text that match other documents. These papers typically do not require further analysis, as there is no evidence of the possibility of plagiarism in these papers.
- Scores between 15 percent and 40 percent: These papers include extensive quoted or paraphrased material or they may include plagiarism. These papers should be reviewed to determine if the matching content is properly attributed.
- Scores over 40 percent: There is a very high probability that text in this paper was copied from other sources. These papers include quoted or paraphrased text in excess and should be reviewed for plagiarism.

### ***Writing Resources:***

- (APA manual) Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2010  
Ref BF76.7 P83 2010 – LCSC Library
- MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., 2009  
Ref LB 2369 G53 2009 – LCSC Library
- LCSC Writing Center [www.lcsc.edu/writinglab](http://www.lcsc.edu/writinglab) (Includes links to additional writing resources)
- LCSC Library Module Level 2 re. Plagiarism [www.lcsc.edu/library/LL/Modules\\_Intro.htm](http://www.lcsc.edu/library/LL/Modules_Intro.htm)
- LCSC Library Plagiarism Bibliography [www.lcsc.edu/library/plagiarism\\_bibliography.pdf](http://www.lcsc.edu/library/plagiarism_bibliography.pdf)

