

Lesson: SafeAssign



Have you ever wondered how teachers can find out if you copied and pasted information from the internet?

In this lesson, you will learn how the instructors of our online learning courses in the DoDEA Virtual High School detect plagiarism.

At the end of this lesson, you will:

- Know the recommended policy of the DoDEA Virtual High School against plagiarism
- Understand how SafeAssign works
- Interpret a SafeAssign report

Note: SafeAssign is spelled as one word!

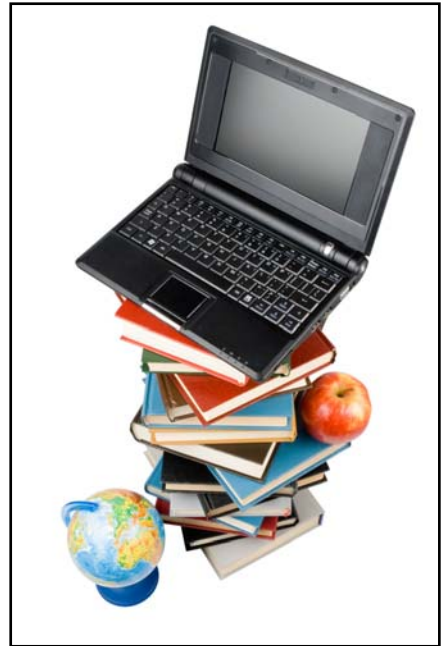
Consequences for Plagiarism:

The following are possible consequences for plagiarism in an online learning course in the DoDEA Virtual High School. Additional consequences may result from the instructor of the course as well.

- "0" on the assignment
- Parent notification
- Referral to administrators
- Suspension or dismissal from school activities--sports and extracurricular
- Note on student record

SafeAssign is a plagiarism prevention service provided by Blackboard that is available to the instructor of your online learning course. This service helps instructors prevent plagiarism by detecting unoriginal content in student papers.

In addition to acting as a plagiarism deterrent, it also has features designed to aid in educating students about plagiarism and importance of proper attribution of any borrowed content.



SafeAssign can be used in two ways:

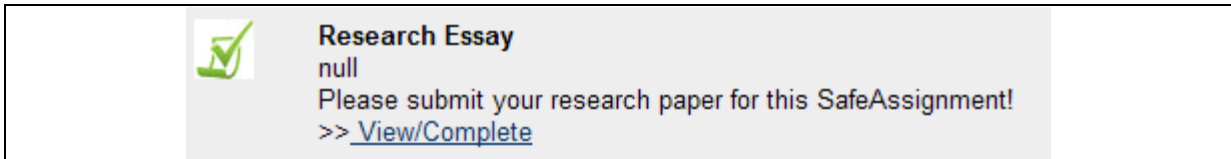
1. Instructors can set up "SafeAssignments" in their online learning courses on Blackboard and let students submit papers to complete these assignments. The papers will then be delivered to instructors through the Blackboard Learning System together with the SafeAssign Originality Reports, which details the results of the matching process.
2. Instructors may upload papers directly, without student involvement through the Direct Submit feature. In other words, if a teacher suspects plagiarism, he / she can run the paper through SafeAssign and it will generate a report that will specify the exact source of the plagiarized text. So if you copy and paste text from the web, SafeAssign will find it!

SafeAssign checks all submitted papers against the following databases:

1. **Internet** - comprehensive index of documents available for public access on the Internet
2. **ProQuest ABI / Inform database** with over 1,100 publication titles and about 2.6 million articles from '90s to present time, updated weekly (exclusive access)
3. **Institutional document archives** containing all papers submitted to SafeAssign by users in their respective institutions
4. **Global Reference Database** containing papers that were volunteered by students from Blackboard client institutions to help prevent cross-institutional plagiarism.

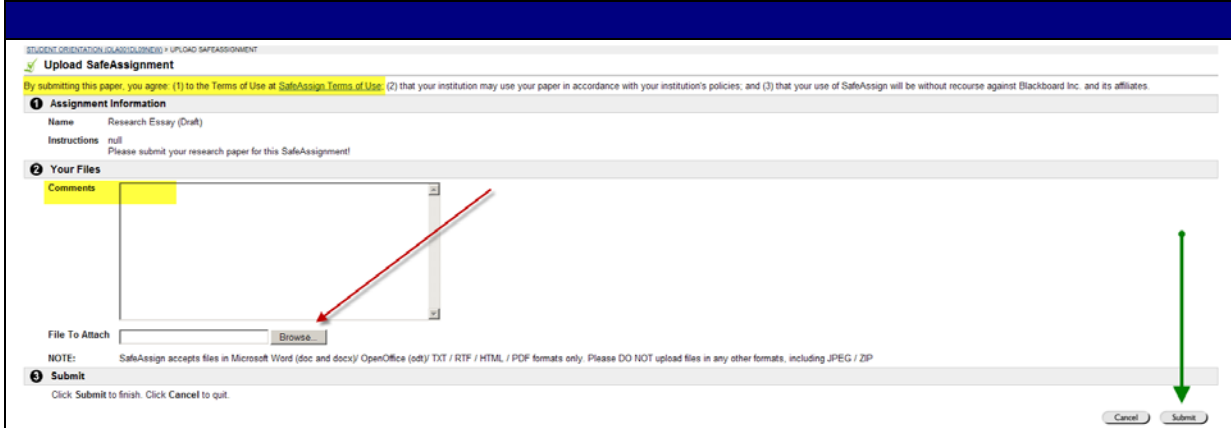


How to Submit your Safe Assignment



Research Essay
null
Please submit your research paper for this SafeAssignment!
>> [View/Complete](#)

You must navigate to the content area where the SafeAssignment exists and click **View/Complete**.



STUDENT ORIENTATION CLASSROOMS > UPLOAD SAFEASSIGNMENT

Upload SafeAssignment

By submitting this paper, you agree (1) to the Terms of Use at [SafeAssign Terms of Use](#), (2) that your institution may use your paper in accordance with your institution's policies, and (3) that your use of SafeAssign will be without recourse against Blackboard Inc. and its affiliates.

1 Assignment Information

Name: Research Essay (Draft)
Instructions: null
Please submit your research paper for this SafeAssignment!

2 Your Files

Comments

File To Attach:

NOTE: SafeAssign accepts files in Microsoft Word (.doc and .docx) / OpenOffice (.odt) / TXT / RTF / HTML / PDF formats only. Please DO NOT upload files in any other formats, including JPEG / ZIP

3 Submit

Click Submit to finish. Click Cancel to quit.

The Upload SafeAssignment Form will appear

1. Outlines the Terms of Use and the instructions you added for the student.
2. You have the option of adding comments to the instructor by clicking the comments box.
3. Browse for the file you are going to attach to the SafeAssignment.
4. **NOTE: SafeAssign accepts files in Microsoft Word 2003 (.doc), TXT, RTF, HTML, PDF formats only. Please DO NOT upload files in any other formats, including JPEG, ZIP files, and Microsoft Office 2007 (.docx).**

How to View your SafeAssign Report



Research Essay
null
Please submit your research paper for this SafeAssignment!
>> [View/Complete](#)

STUDENT ORIENTATION CLASSROOMS > UPLOAD SAFEASSIGNMENT

SafeAssignment Already Completed

You have already completed this SafeAssignment. click OK to review your results.

You can review your SA Report submission. Select the SafeAssignment that you would want to review. Click on **View/Complete** and **OK** to review your SafeAssignment.

INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING WITH BLACKBOARD (RODGERS) | BB WORKSHOP (RODGERS) > VIEW SAFEASSIGNMENT

View SafeAssignment

1 Assignment Information

Name Assignment Title

Description Type instructions related to your assignment

2 Submitted Work

Student ID	Student Name	Text	File	Matching	SA Report	Submitted
	Rodgers, Jason1			-	-	Tue Sep 09 13:43:49 PDT 2008

3 View Grade

View grade for the assignment:

Grade	Points Possible	Weight
!	50.0	0.0

4 Instructor's Feedback

Comments

Currently Attached File No feedback uploaded

Here are the details that the student has access to when reviewing their SafeAssignment. Look at the red arrows above.

TEXT: By clicking on the Text icon, the student would see the text and comments of the

SafeAssignment that they submitted.

FILE: By clicking on the file icon, the student would be able to download the original file that they submitted.

MATCHING: The Matching column will inform the student the percentage of their submitted assignment that matches other sources.

SA REPORT: The SA Report will provide a complete report for the student to review.



The screenshot shows a SafeAssign report interface. At the top, the 'Paper Information' section displays the author as Jason1 Rodgers, the title as 'safeTest.doc', and a 'Matching' bar at 100%. A red arrow points to this bar. Below this is the 'Submission Comment' section with a test message. The 'Suspected Sources' section lists three URLs, with a red arrow pointing to the second one: 'http://www.paulgraham.com/distracton.html'. The 'Paper Text' section shows the original text with blue highlights corresponding to the suspected sources. At the bottom, there is a footer with copyright information and a 'powered by Live Search' logo.

This is what the student would see when clicking on the **SafeAssignment Report**. As you can see, SafeAssign clearly determined that the document that this student submitted was **plagiarized**. The higher the percentage the more likelihood of plagiarism.

This is a smaller version of the 'Paper Information' section from the screenshot above, showing the author 'Jason1 Rodgers', title 'safeTest.doc', and a 'Matching' bar at 100%.

For example, 100% indicates that the whole paper was plagiarized. The lower the percentage the better because it indicates that the paper was original. A good rule of thumb is to keep your percentage below **15%**. Under the Paper Text section, SafeAssign will outline the matching elements to other assignments in blue.

Read below to see another sample SA Report!

Sample Report

The Matching Index shows the percentage of the paper that matched other sources.

Print Version is a text-only formatted version that is accessible and optimized for printing.

These features will give you a direct URL to this report that you can then email to others.

Click on each Suspected Source to see the full corresponding source.

Click the magnifying glass icon to highlight the Paper Text material that matched to that particular source.

Use the Reprocess icon to rerun the report without checking against those sources indicated by the check boxes.

Paper Text is the actual text from the submitted paper.

Highlighted text indicates what portions of the Paper Text corresponds to which source.

Numbers indicate which Suspected Source this text matched with.

Click on a particular matching sentence in the Paper Text to view the Source Comparison window. It shows the URL of the matching source document, the percentage of similarity and a direct comparison of each sentence.

safeassign
by Blackboard

Paper Information

Author: Todd Moe C1
Title: sample doc 1.htm
Matching: 100%

Assignment: Demo Assignment 1
Submitted: 2006-04-04 16:58:12 EST
Paper ID: 41429

Save report to disk:
Print version:
Direct link:

Suspected Sources

Click on a source to view the original, or click on the magnifying glass to see the source highlighted in the text below.

http://www.mydropbox.com/get_paper2.pl?id=173022&digest=e7f5045f1cd93f3ad7f8977d52a9a50

<http://www.netessays.net/viewpaper/27185.html>

http://www.mydropbox.com/get_paper2.pl?id=173023&digest=aa71c6bd185cf2d2b484fb6917d6a3cb

<http://www.the-innovation-group.com/ChemProfiles/Calcium%20Chloride.htm>

<http://www.peterschemical.com/Calcium%20Chloride.htm>

http://www.dochem.co.kr/english/product/p_basic/p_basic03.htm

<http://www.calciumchloride.com/concrete.shtml>

Re-process the paper without the selected sources

Paper Text

Click on the text to see more info about the source.

1 Prejudism in the 1930s, down in the Southern United States, was not good

2 Calcium chloride is used for such things as dust control, road deicing, and to assist in oil and gas drilling. 3 It is easily manufactured for a variety of sources...

4 In recent years, the market demand for calcium chloride has shifted. Consumption within the largest market segment, deicing, is heavily dependent on weather conditions...

5 Calcium Chloride has unique properties that make it ideal for maintaining unpaved roads and fortifying road bases for new construction. 6 It is calcium chloride's ability to regulate moisture on road surfaces that is the key to building roads that last. Calcium Chloride keeps roads moist, day-in and day-out, keeping nuisance dust down...

7 Investigations have shown that a two percent addition of calcium chloride has equal cure strength at 50F as plain concrete has at 70F. 8 Regardless of the temperature or cement type, concrete mixes containing calcium chloride will always have a faster cure rate than plain concrete. The beneficial effects of calcium chloride will be even more pronounced at lower temperatures. 9 The accelerated cure rate measured as final concrete set

URL:	http://www.dochem.co.kr/english/product/p_basic/p_basic03.htm
Uploaded Manuscript:	The beneficial effects of calcium chloride will be even more pronounced at lower temperatures
Internet Source:	The beneficial effects of calcium chloride will be even more pronounced at lower temperatures

Sentence matching scores are the percentage probability that two sentences have the same meaning.

This number can also be interpreted as the reciprocal to the probability that these two sentences are similar by chance. For example, a score of 90 percent means that there is a 90 percent probability that these two sentences 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 typical 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.

Click the link to see a large image and explanation of the sample report:

<http://wiki.safeassign.com/display/SAFE/Interpret+Reports>

Reference

Source: Blackboard Inc.

Authors: Erin Knight and Mehrdad Karjoo (January 2009)

To find out additional information and to answer questions you may have regarding SafeAssign, please click the link:

<http://wiki.safeassign.com/display/SAFE/Student+FAQs>

Photo Attribution

Description: Pile of books, apple, globe and notebook isolated on a white background

Source: Shutterstock.com

Description: The words, "Don't Copy" written on a white background

Source: Shutterstock.com