

Blackboard: SafeAssign

What is SafeAssign?

SafeAssign is a Blackboard tool that can serve as a deterrent to plagiarism and as a tool to educate students about the appropriate use of sources in writing and research. Similar to **Turnitin**, **SafeAssign** is fully integrated into Blackboard - instructors create **SafeAssignments** in their Blackboard courses in the same way that they add standard Blackboard assignments. While SafeAssign is convenient to use because it is fully integrated with Blackboard, Turnitin has a greater advantage of scale due to its larger number of subscribers and the scope of its database.

SafeAssign works as follows:

- Students submit **SafeAssignments** online through Blackboard **OR** instructors upload individual papers directly to **Safeassign**.
- **SafeAssign** compares every student submission to the content in its database (see below)
- The instructor goes to Blackboard to view a **SafeAssign report** highlighting text in the student paper that matches content from sources found in its database.

SafeAssign's database includes:

- Internet pages powered by **Windows Live Search**
- Over 2.5 million articles in the **Proquest** periodical databases
- The **Institutional Database**, a CUNY-wide student paper archive. All student paper submissions become part of the Institutional Database, unless the instructor retracts them from the database or creates a draft assignment.
- A **Global Reference Database**, a cross-institutional database of student papers. Students can opt in to this database if they want to protect their papers from plagiarism.

How can SafeAssign enhance teaching and learning?

- Allows you to check your student's paper for improper citation or potential plagiarism.
- Creates an opportunity for you to discuss academic integrity issues.
- Helps you identify students with potential writing problems for referral to the Writing Center.
- Helps you collect different examples of well-documented papers and examples of improperly cited or paraphrased passages to help explain your interpretation of sample **SafeAssign** reports.
- Allow students to view their **SafeAssign** report to learn more about proper use of citations.

How do I get started with SafeAssign?

The Technology Resource Center offers workshops on **SafeAssign**. For more information on workshop schedules, visit <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/icit/trc/workshops/index.shtml>. Our staff of educational technologists can also help you get started. To request an appointment with an educational technologist, email edtech@hunter.cuny.edu.