Introducing SafeAssign

SafeAssign is a plagiarism prevention tool that encourages students to use original writing and proper citation practices. SafeAssign is integrated with Blackboard and prevents plagiarism by detecting unoriginal content in student papers within the existing teaching and learning environment. SafeAssign can also further deter plagiarism by creating opportunities to educate students on proper attribution and citations.

SafeAssign is hosted on a Blackboard server, not a Moody server and so we do not control its down times. Scheduled maintenance is run through Blackboard's timeline, so there may be brief times when SafeAssign is not available that are out of Moody's control. ETS will stay updated on downtimes and will communicate those to you.

How SafeAssign Works

SafeAssign can be used in two ways.

- Instructor-created SafeAssignments (assignments created with the SafeAssign tool):
    o Students submit papers to complete these assignments; this is very similar to the Assignment tool that is in Blackboard.
    o The papers are run through the Blackboard SafeAssign server where they are analyzed for originality.
    o A SafeAssign Originality Report, which details the results of the matching process, is sent to the instructor via the Grade Center.
- The Direct Submit feature allows the instructor to upload papers directly, without student involvement.

What Papers Are Checked Against

SafeAssign checks all submitted papers against the following databases:

- Internet - comprehensive index of billions 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 '90s to present time, updated weekly (exclusive access); for more information go to http://www.oclc.org/support/documentation/firstsearch/databases/dbdetails/details/ABI_INFORM.htm
- Institutional document archives containing all papers submitted to SafeAssign by Moody users
- Global Reference Database containing papers that were volunteered by students from Blackboard client institutions to help prevent cross-institutional plagiarism

Originality Report

A SafeAssign Originality Report highlights any blocks of text in submitted documents that match reference sources; the highlighted text is linked back to the content that it matches on the Internet or in

supported content databases. SafeAssign reports also show similarity ratings for each matching sentence and allow instructors to view a line-by-line comparison of potentially unoriginal text from submitted papers and the matching external documents.

Can students view reports?

Instructors can enable student viewing so that each student can view the reports for their own submitted papers.

What training materials are available?

The following training materials are available on the ETS website:

- SafeAssign FAQs
- Step-by-step help sheets
- Video tutorials
- Link to Blackboard-created manual and SafeAssign wiki

Blackboard: SafeAssign Overview   Created on 8/11/11 1:03 PM   Page 2 of 2

ets:Learning:Blackboard Phase III:SafeAssign Resources:SafeAssign Help and Info Sheets:HELP SHEET - Blackboard - SafeAssign Overview - July 2011.docx