

Turnitin.com Template for Inclusion in Syllabus (to get a copy of the same text as below, go to <http://www.iusb.edu/~ucet/AcademicIntegrity.shtml>)

In this course, we will be employing Turnitin.com software as a tool for learning how to write with sources. Turnitin.com is useful in helping to determine whether or not a writer is relying too heavily upon sources. We will have a demonstration of the software in class, as well as exercises based on Turnitin.com reports. All essays must be submitted to Turnitin.com at the draft stage (that is, before the final draft is turned in). Individual assignment sheets will provide specific instructions.

To read more about Turnitin.com, go to their website – <http://www.turnitin.com/>

If you need help understanding the report or revising your paper, consult tutors in IUSB's Writing Center, Administration Bldg. #124.

How Turnitin.com works: Students (or instructors) submit electronic versions of essays to Turnitin.com, which in turn produces an "originality report." This report shows the writer and teacher the results of Turnitin.com's comparison of the essay to content on the Web, to Turnitin.com's database of student writing, and to some databases of common full-text journals.

What this process requires of you as a member of this class:

1. For all assignments, you are required to submit to Turnitin.com - all essays must be submitted by the date and time specified in the syllabus.
2. Turnitin.com reports are considered part of the final grade of paper. As with rough drafts, no final essay will be acceptable without a record of its draft having been submitted to Turnitin.com on time.
3. You may submit **each** assignment **one time** to Turnitin.com and receive a report.
4. All drafts and final essays are held to the University's Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (and to the department's policies on plagiarism, if your department has them).

**This information is provided by the
University Center for Excellence
in Teaching**

[www.iusb.edu/~ucet]

Acknowledgements

James Julovich at the Teaching and Learning Technologies Centers at Indiana University Bloomington for permission to use excerpts of *Using Turnitin.com Guide for Instructors*

Joanne Detlef at the IU South Bend Writing Center for assistance with promoting academic integrity at IU South Bend. For more information, call 574.520.4495.

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[revised 6/06]



FACULTY GUIDE



Turnitin.com

**Helping to promote
academic
integrity
and
excellence**



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SOUTH BEND**

About Turnitin.com

Indiana University South Bend subscribes to Turnitin.com, a web-based plagiarism detection program. This program is intended to help students learn to use and cite sources, paraphrase others' ideas, and quote references appropriately. It also helps to enhance academic integrity.

After students or faculty submit electronic versions of essays to Turnitin.com, they receive an "originality report" for each essay. The report yields a comparison of the submitted text to essays in Turnitin.com's vast database of student writing and national full-text journals. The report color-codes text to indicate the percentage of possible plagiarism throughout the essay.

For an orientation and tutorials, visit the following: <http://www.turnitin.com>, <http://www.indiana.edu/~turnitin> and <http://www.indiana.edu/~titl/projects/plagiarism/>.

Using Turnitin.com in a Course

If you are a faculty member at Indiana University South Bend, you may request an account by emailing the University Center for Excellence in Teaching at ucet@iusb.edu. You may also request an individual consultation by calling UCET at extension **4543**. Faculty and students will need an account *before* submitting assignments to Turnitin.com. Students may also independently submit their papers through the Indiana University South Bend Writing Center, which has an account (call 574.520.4495 for more information). Note that any submitted paper, whether from your course account or the Writing Center account, will be stored in the Turnitin.com database.

You might want to reacquaint yourself with the sections on student academic misconduct and

and plagiarism in the *IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct* (<http://www.dsa.indiana.edu/Code>). Also refer to the Indiana University South Bend Writing Center website for acceptable and unacceptable practices (<http://www.iusb.edu/~sbwrite/plagiarism.shtml>).

You can use Turnitin.com as a routine part of your course assignments. When appropriate, encourage students to submit papers at the draft stage of writing so they can revise in light of their "originality reports." You can check the results of the reports with results from the final version of their papers.

Papers may be submitted in two ways, by instructors or by students. Either way, after the sender submits a paper, the sender receives a confirmation email stating that the essay has been submitted to Turnitin.com with a copy of the submitted essay.

Instructors : When you submit student papers, you will be able to view the papers but your students cannot. You would need to print out the color-coded reports for your students to see them.

Students : When students submit their own essays within your Turnitin.com course, you and your students can view the papers. Students benefit by seeing how their papers compare in originality with Turnitin.com's database, and they can easily see where their writing lacks authenticity and originality. They may discuss with you or Writing Center tutors the results of their "originality reports." This experience should enhance their understanding of plagiarism and the importance of personal and academic integrity.

Classroom Practice

Find an opportunity to show your students how Turnitin.com works so they will be familiar with the submission and reporting processes. Have your students submit *original* short essays or paragraphs to Turnitin.com. Then talk with them about the results presented by Turnitin.com and pose questions that address



issues raised in the *Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct*. You may also want to discuss the sample reports featured on the IU Bloomington website (<http://www.indiana.edu/~turnitin/>) under Sample Reports (lower left-hand corner of the webpage).

In your syllabus and during class, inform your students that you are using Turnitin.com. Emphasize that it is a tool to promote excellent writing skills, in particular, the appropriate use of citations and resources. With Turnitin.com you can motivate students to use their own words and ideas and foster an appreciation for skills they need now and later in life.

Determine policies about late submissions and include them in your syllabus. For instance, a paper is considered submitted only if it is uploaded to the IUSB course account in Turnitin.com by the due date. You could include the copyright-free text (see back page) in your syllabus so that students have a good understanding of Turnitin.com and your expectations regarding paper submissions.

Caveats for Faculty

Turnitin.com does not distinguish between text lifted directly from a source and direct quotations. When students quote or cite correctly, the reports may indicate an overlap with these sources. Conversely, plagiarized ideas or concepts, or paraphrases that dramatically change the wording of an original source while maintaining the source's organization and/or sentence structure, could be overlooked or not detected by Turnitin.com. Thus, the implications of "originality reports" by Turnitin.com are not always self-evident. You may need to discuss the interpretation of these reports with your students.
