Turnitin

What is it?

Turnitin is an online service that checks submitted papers for matching text in several databases. It scans its own databases of student submitted work, the public internet and also has licensing agreements with some large academic proprietary databases. Turnitin also provides Grademark, a tool for marking assignments online.

What could you do?

Turnitin can be used to help students learn about academic integrity and provide an indication of when students use text from sources in the Turnitin databases.

Tips

Turnitin does not show when students cheat – it can provide an indicator to inform your judgment of misconduct. Turnitin can indicate significant text matches when no misconduct has occurred; therefore, determining if misconduct has taken place requires review and judgment. Students need to learn academic integrity – Turnitin as a tool may help, but will not be sufficient on its own. Access to Turnitin is available publicly on a fee for service basis – students can use this without you knowing. Turnitin is an indicator of some kinds of misconduct – it does not show if students cheat Turnitin itself, pay for a custom assignment or paraphrase significantly.