

## Blackboard Safe Assign

*A Plagiarism Tool for Good Citation Practices*

SafeAssign is a Blackboard module that UA instructors have available in course shells. SafeAssign checks written content for plagiarism and returns a score indicating the amount of material that matches published works. Scores beyond a certain threshold tend to indicate probable plagiarism. Matching sections of papers are highlighted for review with links to the works they match.

You can submit student papers to SafeAssign yourself or allow students to check their own work. Process time can vary, the results are not immediate.

Proper citation and finding the right balance between paraphrased, quoted, and original content are skills which must be learned. You can use a SafeAssign report as a focus of discussion to explore the questions of:

- What is a good ratio between the original and quoted material in the kind of paper being written?
- Is matching material properly cited?
- What is the difference between paraphrased text and original insight?

You can learn more about Blackboard SafeAssign and read FAQs for students and instructors at the product wiki:

<http://wiki.safeassign.com/display/SAFE/Home>

**IN BLACKBOARD**

The screenshot shows the Blackboard interface. On the left, a navigation menu is open under 'Assessments' > 'Tools', with 'SafeAssignment' selected. The main content area shows 'Assignment Information' for 'Proper Citation Detector'. Below this is a 'Submitted Work' table with one entry for 'Test Student' with a 0% matching score. A red arrow points to the 'SA Report' column, which contains a green checkmark icon. Below the table, the 'safe assign by blackboard' logo is visible. The report details include:

Paper Information		
Author: Test Student	Assignment: Proper Citation Detector	Save report to disk:
Title: paper.rtf	Submitted: Mon, Apr 22 2013, 10:41 AM	Print version:
Matching: <input type="text" value="0%"/>	Paper ID: 58869046	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.

**Paper Text**

A web presence is the collection of web pages, blogs, online articles, discussion board posts, tagged photos and social media links that form a representation of a person online. These atomic information pieces can be produced purposely or accidentally by a person or by others. A person's web presence paints a picture which can be complimentary or derogatory, focused or distracting. The concept of a web presence is important in that it can serve as a digital resume and online portfolio. It can, that is, if one takes the time to carefully construct it. A web presence that is generated for portfolio or resume purposes should be carefully prepared with the intended audience in mind. In most instances the digital footprint people leave as a result of Internet use should not directly affect their web presence. After I purchased some books on wooden boat building from Amazon and did some searches on wood tools with Google, I saw very similar items show up on seemingly unrelated web pages. These traces of economic and search activity did not affect my portfolio web site. Had I not made my portfolio site with content that I have carefully crafted and timely placed, a search on me might have resulted in social media activity logs of friends commenting on my purchases. For those who are mainly on the