

Turnitin's originality reports help faculty members identify improper citation or plagiarism in student papers by comparing it against several databases. This document reviews some of the concerns that faculty may have about the following topics:

1. Academic Integrity
2. Intellectual Property Rights
3. Student Privacy Rights
4. Additional Resources

Details

1

Academic Integrity

Turnitin is a powerful tool for faculty because of its broad reach and instructional effectiveness.

- It looks for matches in over 11 billion pages of indexed web content, over 70 million papers in the student paper archive, and over 10,000 professional, academic and commercial journals and publications.
- It serves as a learning tool to help instructors and students better identify and correct unintentional plagiarism.

The originality report does not simply deliver an “innocent” or “guilty” verdict.

- The originality reports provide detailed references of matches from Turnitin's databases.
- Trained faculty can quickly check students' work and then determine if plagiarism has occurred.
- Faculty control whether they want students to be able to see their originality reports and have the opportunity to address any issues with improper sourcing or missing citations.

Turnitin can reduce plagiarism significantly by encouraging the appropriate use of other people's content. This includes helping students learn proper research and citation methods.

2

Intellectual Property Rights

There has been healthy debate about Turnitin and its implications for intellectual property rights.

- Schools are allowed to use student intellectual property to evaluate students.
- Turnitin actually protects students' original work from being used without citation.
- Multiple law firms and court decisions have concluded that Turnitin operates in full accordance with the intellectual property and copyright laws of the United States.

3

Student Privacy Rights

There has been healthy debate about Turnitin and its implications for student privacy rights.

- Turnitin abides by a strict privacy policy to protect sensitive data.
 - Student information and papers are secured digitally through industry-standard SSL encryption and physically through stringent security measures at Turnitin's server facilities.
 - Turnitin complies with all relevant privacy laws including FERPA.
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Additional Resources

- **Plagiarism.org** (<http://www.plagiarism.org>) is designed to help educators and students develop a better sense of what plagiarism means, and to provide planning, organizational, and citation information.
 - **Turnitin.org** (<http://www.turnitin.com/static/company.html>) has important information about the Turnitin company and additional legal information.
 - **Read the attached article** by Dr. Nancy Stanlick, creator of the Seminar in Academic Integrity at the University of Central Florida.
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For more information and additional guides and resources on Turnitin and other software check out <http://www.txwes.edu/titleiii/>

If you have any questions contact Meghan Foster at 817-531-6584 or mfoster@txwes.edu.