

About SafeAssign

SafeAssign compares submitted assignments against a set of academic papers to identify areas of overlap between the submitted assignment and existing works. Safe Assign is used to prevent plagiarism and to create opportunities to help students identify how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase. SafeAssign is effective as both a deterrent and an educational tool.

How SafeAssignments Work

SafeAssign is based on a unique text matching algorithm capable of detecting exact and inexact matching between a paper and source material. SafeAssignments are compared against several different databases, including:

- **Internet:** Comprehensive index of documents available for public access on the Internet
- **ProQuest ABI/Inform database:** More than 1,100 publication titles and about 2.6 million articles from 1990s to present time, updated weekly (exclusive access)
- **Institutional document archives:** Contains all papers submitted to SafeAssign by users in their respective institutions
- **Global Reference Database:** Contains papers that were volunteered by students from Blackboard client institutions to help prevent cross-institutional plagiarism

Global Reference Database

Blackboard's Global Reference Database is a separate database where students voluntarily donate copies of their papers to help prevent plagiarism. It is separated from each institution's internal database, where all papers are stored by each corresponding institution, and students are free to select the option to check their papers without submitting them to the Global Reference Database. Students submit their papers to the database voluntarily and agree not to delete papers in the future. Submissions to the Global Reference Database are extra copies that are given voluntarily for the purpose of helping with plagiarism prevention. Blackboard does not claim ownership of submitted papers.

SafeAssign Originality Reports

After a paper has been processed, a report will be available detailing the percentage of text in the submitted paper that matches existing sources. It also shows the suspected sources of each section of the submitted paper that returns a match. Instructors can delete matching sources from the report and process it again. This may be useful if the paper is a continuation of a previously submitted work by the same student.

Because SafeAssign identifies all matching blocks of text, it is important to read the report carefully and investigate whether or not the block of text is properly attributed.

Interpreting SafeAssign Scores

Sentence matching scores represent the percentage probability that two phrases have the same meaning. This number can also be interpreted as the reciprocal to the probability that these two phrases are similar by chance. For example, a score of 90 percent means that there is a 90 percent probability that these two phrases are the same and a 10 percent probability that they are similar by chance and not because the submitted paper includes content from the existing source (whether or not it is appropriately attributed).

Overall score is an indicator of what percentage of the submitted paper matches existing sources. This score is a warning indicator only and papers should be reviewed to see if the matches are properly attributed.

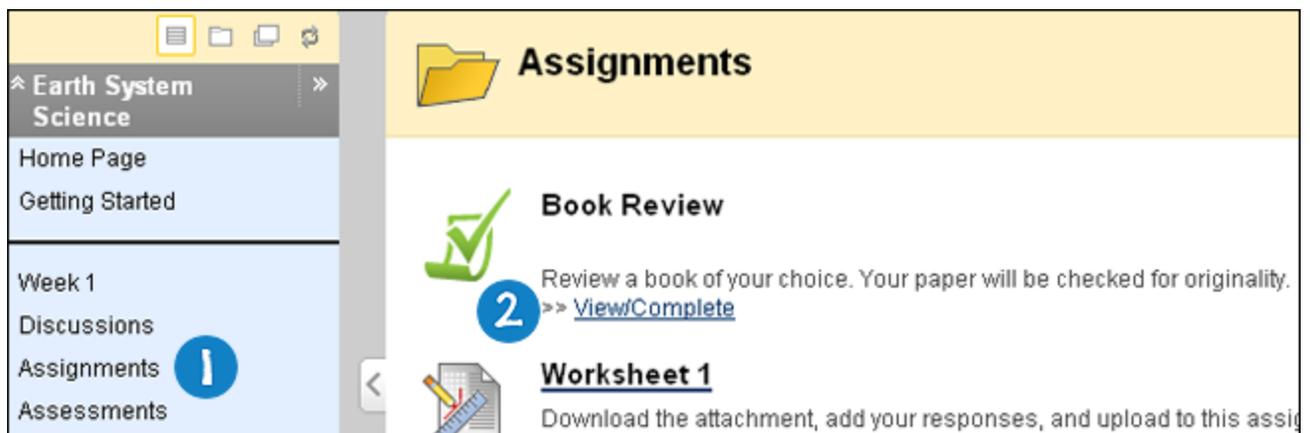
- **Scores below 15 percent:** These papers typical include some quotes and few common phrases or blocks of text that match other documents. These papers typically do not require further analysis, as there is no evidence of the possibility of plagiarism in these papers.
- **Scores between 15 percent and 40 percent:** These papers include extensive quoted or paraphrased material or they may include plagiarism. These papers should be reviewed to determine if the matching content is properly attributed.
- **Scores over 40 percent:** There is a very high probability that text in this paper was copied from other sources. These papers include quoted or paraphrased text in excess and should be reviewed for plagiarism.

Grade Center Integration

SafeAssignments are created with associated Grade Center items. The score is then recorded in the Grade Center.

How to Submit a SafeAssignment

1. On the Click to toggle glossary term definition: <begin definition> [Course Menu](#) <end definition>., select the Click to toggle glossary term definition: <begin definition> [Content Area](#) <end definition>. that holds the SafeAssignment, for example, the **Assignments** Content Area.
2. On the **Assignments** page, look for the SafeAssignment and click **View/Complete**.



3. On the **Upload SafeAssignment** page, optionally, type your comment in the **Comment** box.
4. Click **Browse** to select a file to attach as your submission.
5. Optionally, select the **Global Reference Database** check box to upload your paper to the Global Reference Database.

Note: Submitting to the SafeAssign Global Reference Database allows papers from other institutions to be checked against your paper to protect the originality of your work across institutions.

6. Click **Submit**.

Note: After you submit SafeAssignments, there is a slight delay between the upload and the availability of the SafeAssign report. Results are normally available within 10-15 minutes.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Upload SafeAssignment" with a yellow header and a green checkmark icon. The form is divided into four main sections, each with a numbered step indicator:

- 1. Assignment Information:** A table with "Name" (Book Review) and "Instructions" (Review a book of your choice. Your paper will be checked for originality.).
- 2. Your Files:** Includes a "Comments" text area (containing "Book review about our atmosphere." with a circled 3), a "File To Attach" field (containing "C:\Documents and Settings\DE" and a "Browse..." button with a circled 4), and a "NOTE:" section stating that SafeAssign accepts files in .doc, .docx, .odt, .txt, .rtf, .pdf, and .html formats only.
- 3. Global Reference Database:** A checkbox labeled "I agree to submit my paper to the Global Reference Database" is checked, with a circled 5 next to it.
- 4. Submit:** The bottom section of the form, containing "Cancel" and "Submit" buttons, with a circled 6 next to the "Submit" button.

How to View SafeAssignment Submissions

Your submissions and the SafeAssign reports associated with submissions are viewable by accessing the SafeAssignment after submitting your paper.

Note: This option is only available if allowed by your instructor.

Viewing a SafeAssign Submission

1. Return to the assignment link in the Content Area that holds the SafeAssignment, for example, the **Assignments** Content Area.

2. On the **Assignments** page, look for the SafeAssignment and click **View/Complete**. The **View SafeAssignment** page appears. This page includes:
 - **Assignment Information:** This section displays the name of the SafeAssignment and its description.
 - **Submitted Work:** This section provides link to the following :
 - **Text:** Select this option to view your paper and comments.
 - **File:** Select this option to download the submission.
 - **Matching:** The percentage listed is the percentage of your paper that matches other sources. Read the full report to determine if the matching is properly attributed.
 - **SA Report:** Select this option to view the full SafeAssign report.
 - **View Grade:** This section lists the grade given by your instructor.
 - **Instructor's Feedback:** This section lists any feedback, and provides links to open or download any files attached by your instructor..

Viewing a SafeAssign Report

SafeAssign Report provides detailed information about the matches found between your submitted paper and existing sources. The SafeAssign Report identifies all matching blocks of text. It is your and your instructor's responsibility to investigate whether the matching text is properly referenced or not. Detailing every match prevents detection errors due to differences in citing standards.

1. Return to the **View SafeAssignment** page.
2. On the **View SafeAssignment** page, click the green check mark link under **SA Report**. The **SA Report** provides extensive information to help you determine whether you are appropriately citing your works. This page includes:
 - **Paper Information:** This section lists data about the paper, such as the author, percent matching, and when it was submitted. This section also includes options for downloading the report, emailing the report, or viewing a printable version. Note that the printable version may be the most effective view of the report for those users that rely on assistive technologies to access Blackboard Learn.
 - **Suspected Sources:** This section lists the original sources that match sections of the submitted paper.
 - To display the original work, click on the source title.
 - To display the related phrase within your paper, click the magnifying glass.
 - **Paper Text:** This section shows the submitted paper. All matching blocks of text are identified and numbered. Click a phrase to display the Source Comparison Window which provides a direct comparison between your paper's phrase and the source document it matches.

Interpreting the Overall SafeAssign Score

The overall SafeAssign score indicates the percentage of the submitted paper that matches existing sources.

Paper Text

This is a book review of the book entitled The Atmospheric Environment Effects of Human Activity written by Michael B. McElroy.

1 This comprehensive introduction to the physics and chemistry of Earth's atmosphere explains the science behind some of the most critical and intensely debated environmental controversies of our day. 2 In it, one of the world's leading experts on planetary

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