Technological Tools for Academic Integrity

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Slides available at: http://goo.gl/moliSV

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Plagiarism in Universities

- At U of T, the number of official cases of plagiarism climbed to 403 in 2005-06 from 92 a decade ago.
- 698 students on 9 campuses were surveyed by Scanlon and Neumann in 2002 and 24.5 % were found to be plagiarizing through cutting and pasting from an Internet source (Scanlon, 2003)
- A data from 2, 200 students across 21 campuses reveals 10% copying a few sentences from web sources and 5% turned papers in with major parts copied from web sources (McCabe, 2001).
- A CBC survey of Canadian universities shows more than 7,000 students were disciplined for academic cheating in 2011-12

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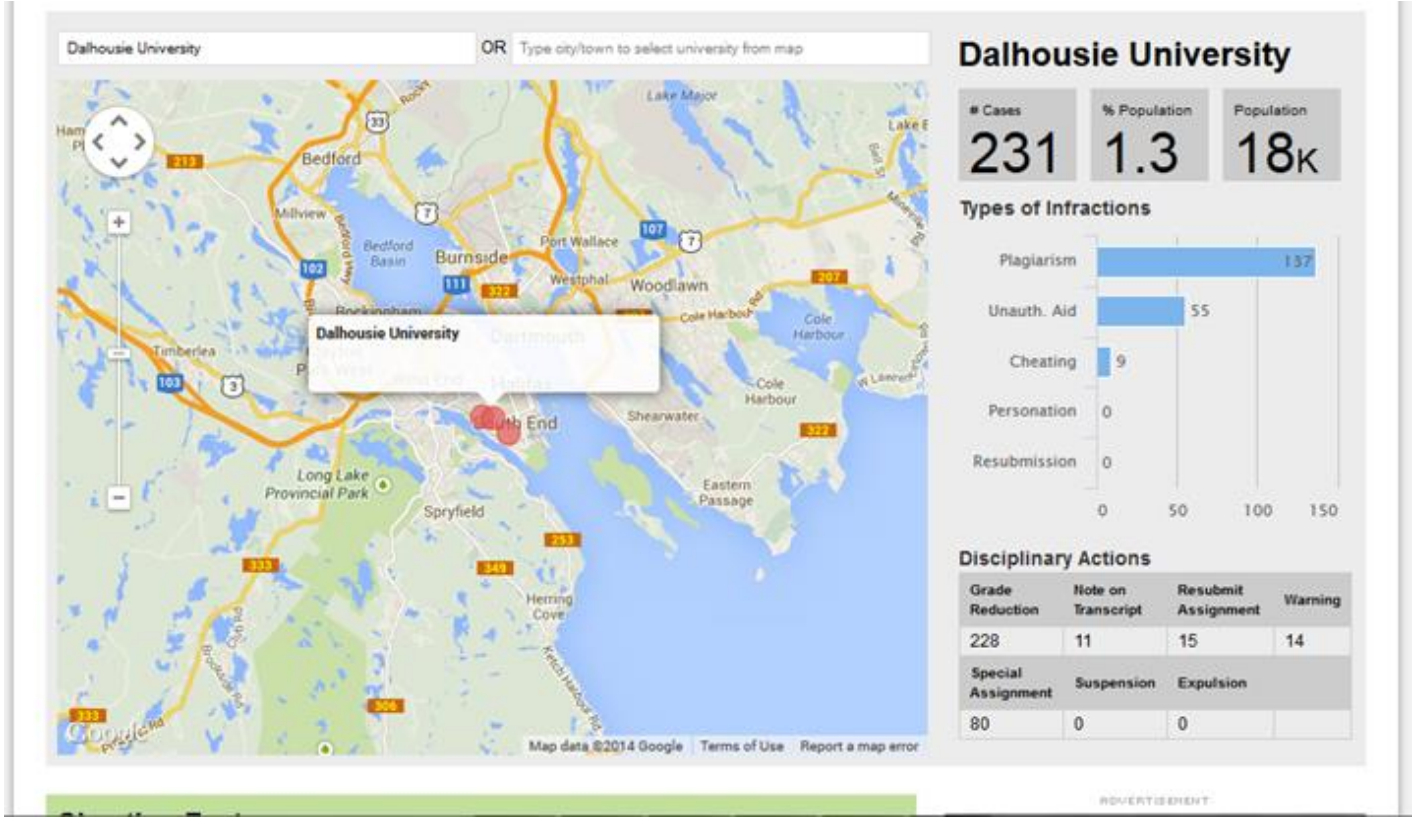
Special Report by CBC



http://www.cbc.ca/manitoba/features/universities/

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Today's Goal:

- Share tech tools and teaching ideas for:
  - Prevention and detection of plagiarism
  - Pedagogical approach: improving students' writing skills to reduce incidents of plagiarism
- Discussion on applying these ideas in a variety of teaching contexts

- Focus is practical ideas rather than philosophical debate about the nature of plagiarism, etc.
- Focus is on intentional and unintentional unattributed copying of others' ideas (not other forms of plagiarism such as essay mills or "help")

Prevention: Laying a Good Foundation

- **Instructor plays an important role**

  Have you:

  - **Googled your own assignment?**
    - **"Temptation and opportunity" (Park, 2003)**
  - **Provided and go over links to online resources on academic integrity and academic writing**
  - **Dalhousie Libraries, Purdue OWL, AI @ the U of T, Plagiarism.org, Academic Integrity @ Dal**

Bibliographic Managers

- A demonstration of the bibliographic-generating capabilities is worth a thousand words
  - Plug-ins to generate in-text citations
- Refworks, Zotero, Google Scholar
  - Helpful for those who plagiarize out of lack of familiarity with citation styles, lack of organization, or time management. (Park, 2003)

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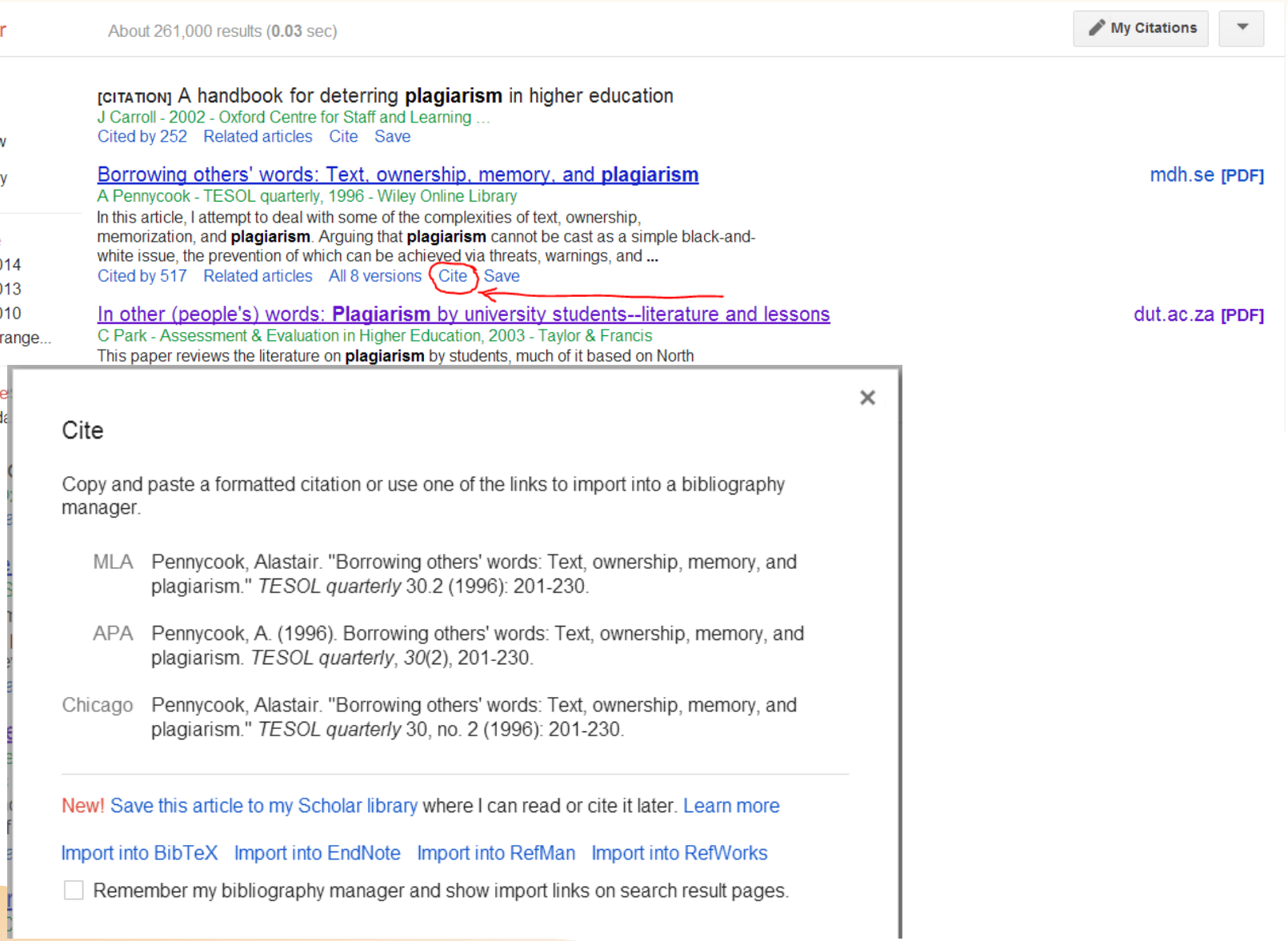

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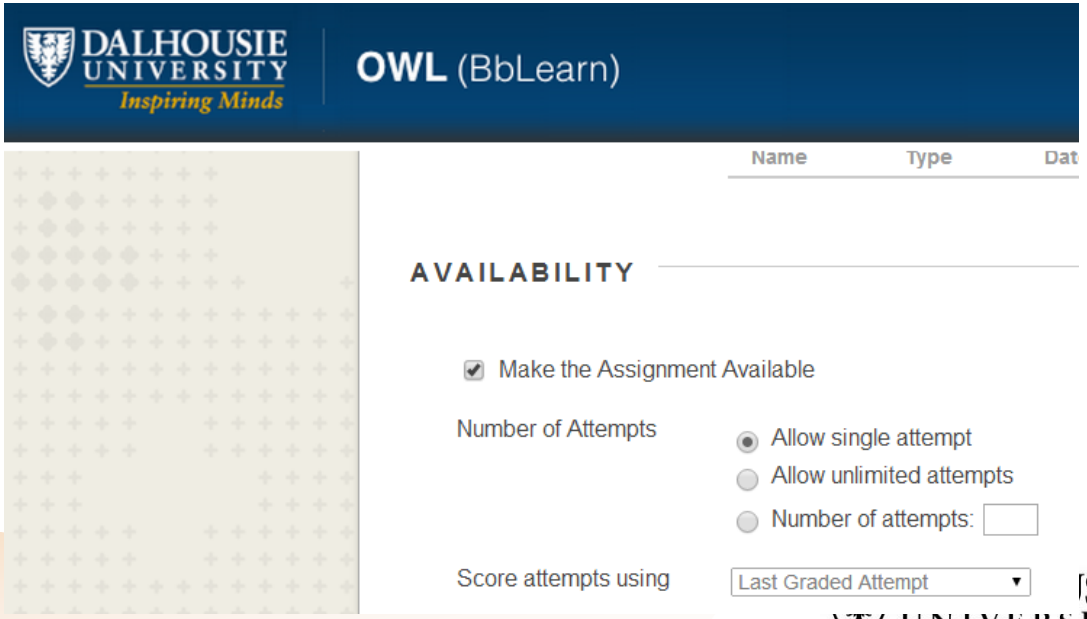
Preventing plagiarism: “versioning”

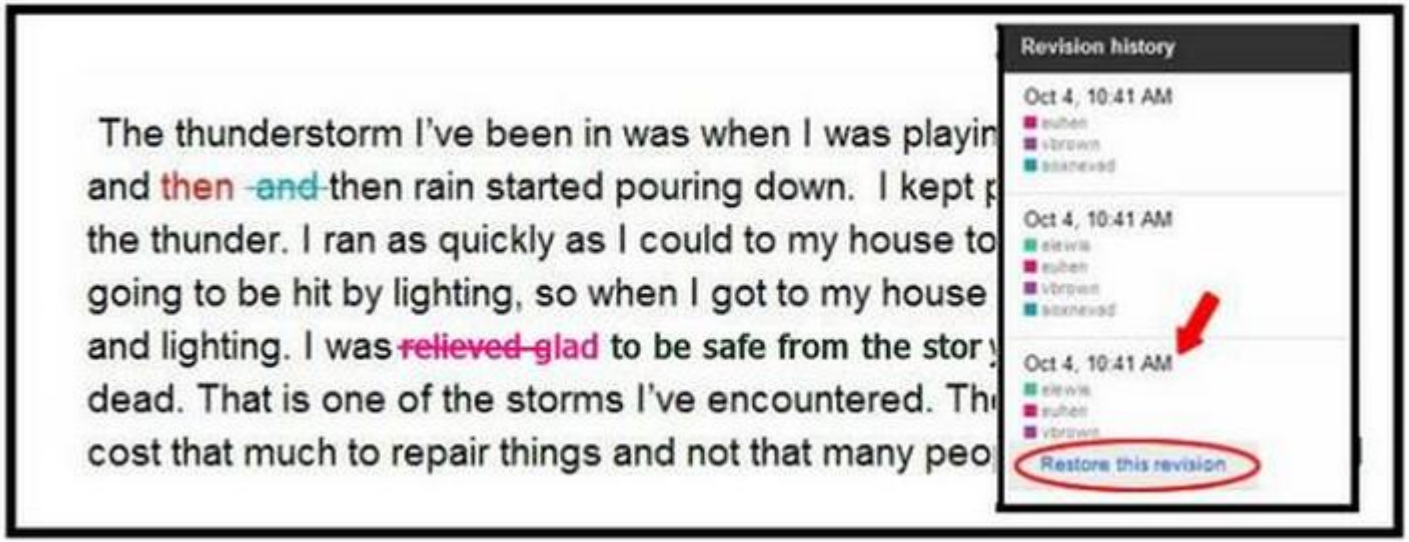
- **Get to know your students’ writing:**
  - Collect writing samples early in the course: submit digitally, or a timed Blackboard assessment
  - Use Blackboard to manage versions, drafts and attempts
  - Assignment→Availability
  - Students can submit sources: easy to attach



Google Drive ("Google Docs") for Group Work

Free, online, cloud-based word processor that allows for collaborative writing through shared documents.

Additions and revisions can be tracked.



Source: http://gettingsmart.com/2012/09/google_docs_for_collaborative_writing/

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Detection

- Safe Assign
- Turnitin.com (Thousands of institutions in more than 100 countries, including 45 colleges and universities in Canada, now use turnitin.com.)
- Other on-line plagiarism detectors: Paperrater, Grammarly, Google, etc.
- Readability-Score to compare versions
  - If a student suddenly seems to have improved a lot overnight

- In-class demos could help prevent plagiarism by those who copy because of "lack of deterrence" (Park, 2003)

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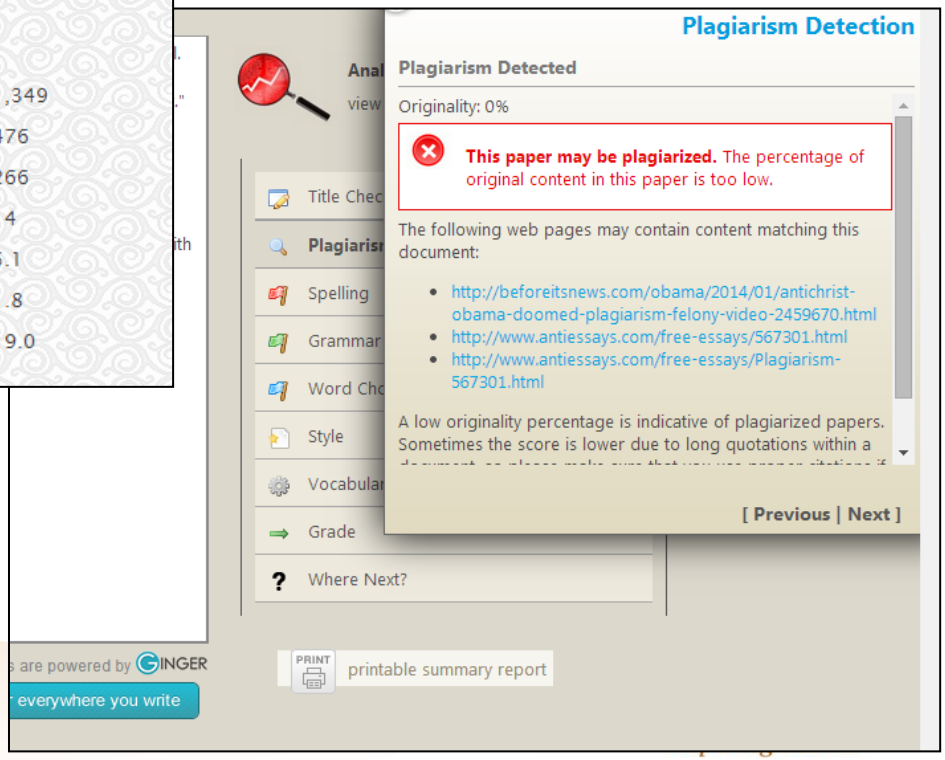
Grade Levels

A grade level (based on the USA education system) is equivalent to the number of years of education a person has had. Scores over 22 should generally be taken to mean graduate level text.

Readability Formula	Grade
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	12.9
Gunning-Fog Score	16.3
Coleman-Liau Index	14.1
SMOG Index	12
Automated Readability Index	12
Average Grade Level	**13.5**

Text Statistics

Character Count	1,349
Syllable Count	476
Word Count	266
Sentence Count	14
Characters per Word	5.1
Syllables per Word	1.8
Words per Sentence	19.0



Improving Student Writing: Our context

- **ESL Programs:**
  - Intensive, full-time pre-sessional training in EAP (English for Academic Purposes) for students conditionally admitted to Dalhousie (and other universities)
  - In the curriculum: developing academic writing skills, using and incorporating sources
  - Much plagiarism occurs accidentally due to weak writing skills
  - We deal with both detecting and preventing plagiarism through skills development

Activity: Find the Plagiarism

- Distribute a paragraph that contains a combination of original writing and plagiarized/incorrectly attributed material.
- Springboard for discussion: as to how to cite correctly, writer's voice, etc.

- Also acts as a deterrent

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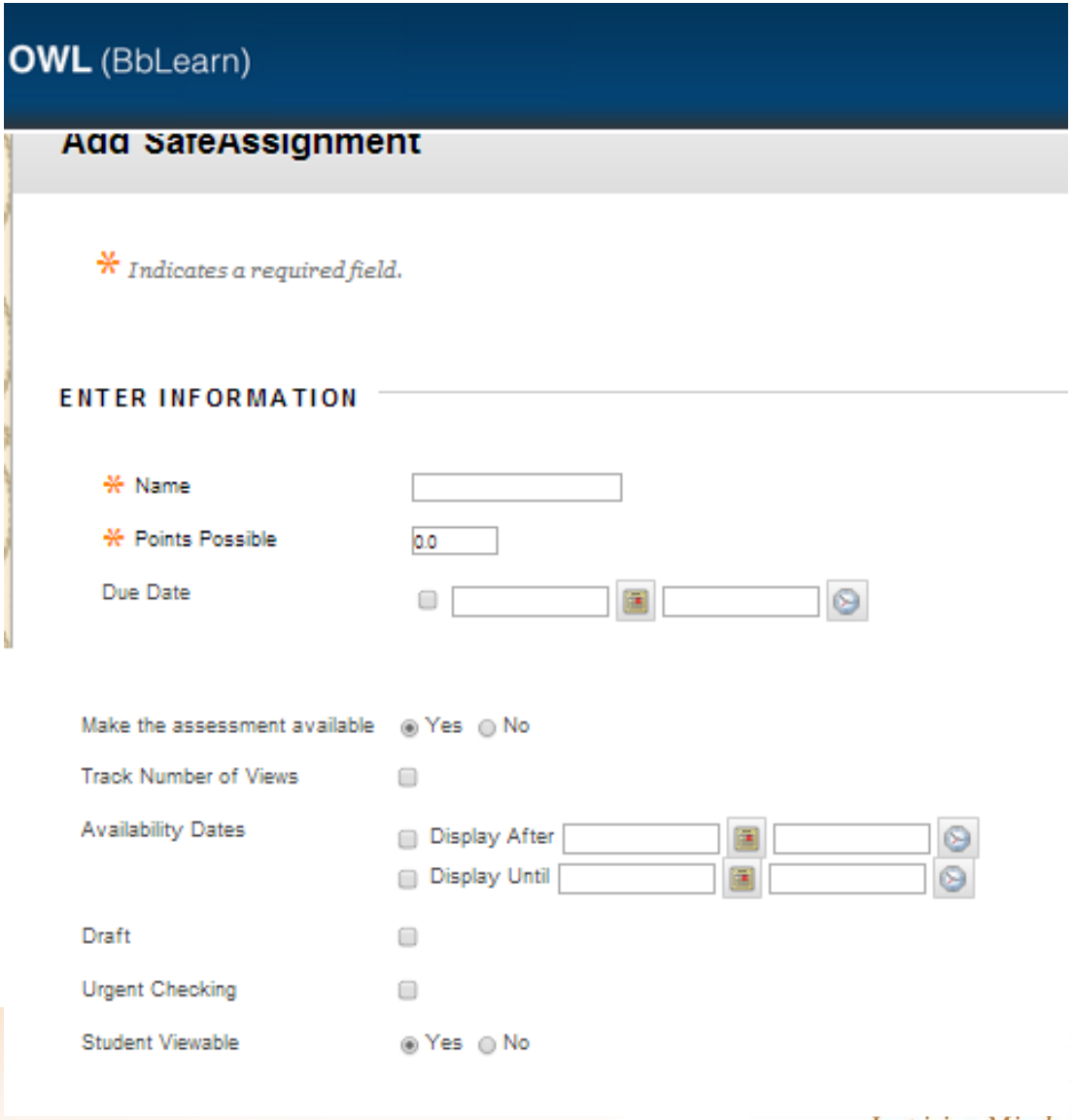
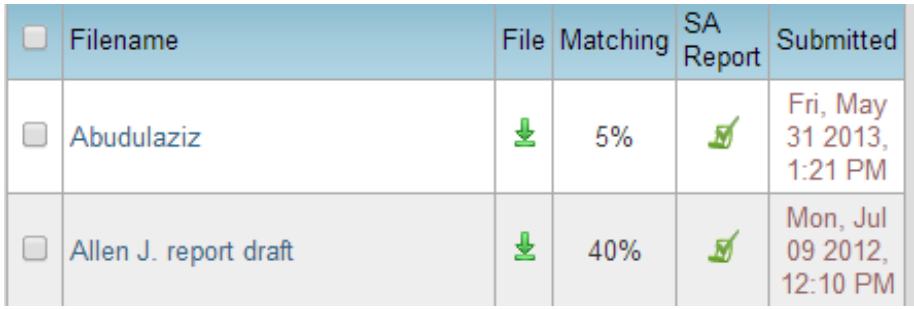
Safe Assign as a Teaching Tool

- Assessment→ SafeAssignment in Blackboard
- Very important: check DRAFT
- Students can view SafeAssign report



Opens up discussions on:

- In-text citations
- Paraphrasing vs. direct citations
- What exactly makes a paraphrase?
- Self-plagiarism
- Evaluating sources



Filename	File	Matching	SA Report	Submitted
Abudulaziz		5%		Fri, May 31 2013, 1:21 PM
Allen J. report draft		40%		Mon, Jul 09 2012, 12:10 PM

The current issue in domestic Greece, The impact of government measures and the echo came from other Eurozone countries are analyzed, and some recommendations are given as to tackle this problem and revive Greece's economy.
Background The European union was established after the Second World War, from the outset with only one institution called European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) to current time with eight institutions, which includes five political institutions (which is European Parliament, European Council, Council of the European Union, European Commission and European Union legislative procedure) and three non-political institutions (which is European Central Bank, Court of Justice of the European Union and Court of Auditors).

Greece joint in the European Union in 1981, the country has gave a huge profit from the Union, wholesale fund has been given by the Union and it has substantially promote the development of Greece economy. Olympic game returned to Greece in 2004 can be a better reason to illustrate the fact that Greece gained a lot from the Eurozone. But the true is, on the back side of wholesale loaning, has become the cornerstone of triggering the debt crisis in 2010. 1 The Greek debt crisis was considered to be threatening the survival of the Eurozone and a global financial meltdown worse than the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008. Margaronis, M, 2011) Findings Current issue in Greece With the high unemployment rate caused by the crisis, many people are facing the problem of their pension's slashed and the rise of the price has lead to the fact that individuals do not know the when they can overcome the current difficulties. (Margaronis, M, 2011) In addition, the unemployment in Greece is generally at 16 percent but it has increased to 40 percent in a year and 42 percent are the young while at the same time, those with jobs face salary decreased about 30 percent, tax and price increases, public services in chaos. 1 (Margaronis, M, 2011) "They've all cheated us. 1 They destroyed the banks, our pension funds. They invested our social security money in bonds for their own benefit", said by Vassilis Papadopoulos, a 50-year-old

Submission ID: 28823954

Allen W. report Draft
Word Count: 1,025
Attachment ID: 48571121
31%

Citations (5/5)

1 http://www.thenation.com/articl...
2 http://www.doiserbia.nb.rs/img/...
3 http://ibnlive.in.com/generalne...
4 http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/worl...
5 http://www.manchesterwired.co...

Resubmit to SafeAssign

Text Summarizers and Article Rewriters

- **Text Summarizers: TextCompacter, Autosummarizer, etc.**
  - These sites identify keywords in a text, and reduce the text to a given percentage of its original length.
- **Article re-writers: SmallSEOTools, EZRewrite**
  - These sites find words in a text that can be replaced with synonyms, and slot them in.

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Summarizers and Article Rewriters as Teaching Tools

- **Points for discussion and/or practice:**
  - What makes a good summary?
  - How do you paraphrase: are synonyms enough?
  - Do the article re-writes sound natural?
  - How does a human-generated summary or paraphrase sound different than that generated by machine?

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Discussion

- What are you doing to prevent or detect plagiarism with your classes?
- Are you taking a pedagogical approach to plagiarism?
- Could you adapt and apply any of these ideas to your context?

References

- Park, C. (2003). In other (people's) words: Plagiarism by university students--literature and lessons. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, *28*(5), 471-488.
- Scanlon, P. M. (2003). Student online plagiarism. *College Teaching*, *51*(4), 161-165.

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Thank you!

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