The UOW Psychology Turnitin Playpen: A self-learning resource to support psychology students’ academic writing development and acknowledgement practice

Amy Chan
School of Psychology 400-Level Coordinator
amychan@uow.edu.au

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Preamble

• Good academic writing is a skill that comes with practice and experience. As you go through your undergraduate psychology course, you will gain this experience through writing essays and lab reports.

• Inexperience in academic writing and leaving one’s assignment until the last minute are two common underlying causes of academic plagiarism.

• Rather than treating academic plagiarism as a taboo subject, the School of Psychology is committed to supporting students’ academic writing development and good acknowledgement practice.
Supporting Your Academic Writing Development

This handout provides you with some pointers

– to encourage you to begin reading and preparing for your assignments early, and

– how you may use Turnitin as a self-learning tool to check and improve your academic writing.
Assignment Preparation:

DOs

• Start early
• Read with intent
• Read for understanding
• Summarise in your own words
Assignment Preparation: DON’Ts

- Read the abstract only
- Pretend that the textbooks are peer-reviewed sources
- Heavy use of direct quotes
- Superficial paraphrasing
- Leave your essay/lab report until the night before(!!)
Researching for your essay or lab report

• Useful strategies?

• Using databases
  – E.g., PsycInfo, Science Direct, Scopus, Google Scholar

• Using peer-reviewed sources
  – Checking for peer-review status
Improving your writing and acknowledgement practice

• Paraphrasing and summarising
  – Chronologically or categorically describing theory and research
  – “who” did “what”

VS.

• Critically reviewing and integrating the literature
  – Organising and critically discussing research in the field
  – Demonstrates your command of knowledge in a research area
  – Important for
    • Deriving/addressing a sound research question
    • Analysing available evidence
    • Drawing an appropriate conclusion
Turnitin

- An online text-matching system
How Turnitin works for you

- Dummy “class” set up for checking your drafts
- Submit your work for checking
  - confirmation via email
  - originality report (max. 1 per day)
  - Drafts NOT saved in a repository
Your Turnitin Playpen

• Access via www.turnitin.com

• **Step 1:** Need to create an account
  – With a valid email address
  – And your chosen Turnitin password

• **Step 2:** Enrol yourself into the specially created Turnitin class [class name: UOW Psychology Turnitin Playpen]
  – Class ID: 14787384
  – Class name: UOW Psychology Turnitin Playpen
  – Enrolment password: PSYC_UOW

• Handout: http://www.uow.edu.au/student/services/ld/students/UOW021315.html

If you had an old Playpen account: Note that these new class enrolment details are required!
Enrolling in the Turnitin Class
Once enrolled, you can click on the class name to submit drafts for checking.
An Example

• Joe Bloggs2 (a fictitious UOW student) – blatant plagiarist or lazy writer?
You can click on the “Info” link to view the details of the assignment (see next page)
Click on the “Submit” button to submit your draft for checking.
Note that you need to upload your draft as a **single file** — check requirements for file upload.
Congratulations - your submission is complete! This is your digital receipt. You can print a copy of this receipt from within the Document Viewer.

Author:
Joe Bloggs2

Assignment title:
My turnitin Flaypen

Submission title:
My draft PSYCcox essay

File name:
C:Users\amy cham\Desktop\Teaching\Turnitin\JoeBloggs2 attachment essay example.doc

File size:
23.5K

Page count:
1

Word count:
306

Character count:
1825

Submission date:
24-Mar-2017 6:50 PM AEDT

Submission ID:
7887556701

This is what you get once your draft has been successfully submitted. Click on “Return to assignment list” to access your originality report. [Note: It may take a while before Turnitin completes its processing of your submission.]
Check your originality report. In general, you should strive for a low percentage figure (i.e., as little direct overlap as possible between your written work and identified sources in Turnitin’s database).
The originality report shows direct matches with identified sources. In general, if you write in your own words, there will not be big “chunks” of colour-coded texts in your originality report!
Revise, improve, resubmit

When you have revised your draft, you may resubmit it to Turnitin again for checking.
Discover for yourself: Homework Exercise

• Type up your summary of a journal article that you have read for an assignment or a class
• Create a Turnitin account
• Submit your summary to “My turnitin playpen”
  – Generate an originality report
Your journal article summary

• **Initial** originality rating?

• any patterns in the matched text?
  – Why?

• Reattempts?