

Academic Integrity

Having a conversation About A Student Paper



Center for Teaching &
Learning Excellence

Purpose

The purpose of having a conversation with a student regarding your concerns about a paper is to gather information and have a constructive dialogue. Remember to maintain a supportive approach, allowing the student the opportunity to explain their process and perspective while addressing your concerns. Depending on the student's responses, further action may be necessary to determine whether the student engaged in academic misconduct, but first it is important to have a constructive dialogue.

A student's paper may raise instructor concerns for a variety of reasons.

1. The writing seems inconsistent with the student's previous work.
2. The writing missed some or all of the requirement(s) of the assignment.
3. Specific course content or resources were not incorporated.
4. A Turnitin similarity report displays matching narrative.
5. A Turnitin AI report suggests some or all of the paper was generated by AI.

Recommendations

1. Maintain a respectful approach.
2. Take an inquiry posture rather than an accusatory stance.
3. Provide ample time for the student to explain their process and final product.
4. Remain calm, not giving in to your own or the student's emotions.
5. You do not have to resolve the issue in the moment. You may need some time to think about it.
6. Inform the student of the options you will consider, and give them a date (within one week) for your decision.
7. Follow up with an email regarding your decision.
8. Document the meeting.

Questions you may want to consider

1. Tell me about your research process. Where or how did you begin?
2. Walk me through the main ideas and arguments that you present in your paper.
3. How did you select your resources? What journals or other publications did you use? How did you find them?
4. Can you describe your key learnings from your resources? Was there one in particular that stood out to you? Why?
5. After selecting your resources, what was your next step?
6. How much time did the process take 1) choosing your topic, 2) selecting your resources, 3) outlining or brainstorming, 4) writing, 5) revising and editing?
7. What specific parts of your paper do you feel most confident about and why?

8. Your paper includes the following concepts or terms [insert concepts or terms]. We didn't address those in class. Can you explain what these mean?
9. Did you encounter any challenges while writing this paper? If so, how did you overcome them?
10. What are your key takeaways or lessons you learned from researching and writing this paper?
11. How do you feel this paper reflects your own knowledge, writing style, and academic abilities?
12. Have you used AI or writing software to assist you with writing this paper?
13. If you used AI or writing software, what specific tools or programs did you use and how did you use them?
14. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about your writing process for this paper?
15. If applicable, address the Turnitin Similarity Report. Display the two documents and ask for the student's explanation.
16. If applicable, address the Turnitin AI Report. Ask the student to explain. Can they show you the version history of the document? (located at the top of the Word tool bar next to the document's file name).