

Academic Integrity

Having a conversation About A Student Paper



Purpose

The purpose of speaking with a student about concerns related to an assignment is to gather information and engage in a productive conversation. It's important to approach the discussion in a supportive manner, giving the student space to share their process and point of view while you express your concerns. Based on the student's responses, additional steps may be needed to assess whether academic misconduct occurred, but the priority should be fostering an open and respectful dialogue first.

A student's assignment 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).
3. Specific course content or resources were not incorporated.
4. A Turnitin similarity report displays matching narrative.

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 process completing the assignment. Where or how did you begin?
2. Walk me through how you came up with the content in the assignment.
3. How did you select your resources? What resources 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 assignment 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 completing? If so, how did you overcome them?
10. What are your key takeaways or lessons you learned from completing this assignment?
11. How do you feel this this assignment reflects your own knowledge, writing style, and academic abilities?
12. Have you used AI or writing software to assist you in completing this assignment?
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 process in completing this assignment?
15. If applicable, address the Turnitin Similarity Report. Display the two documents and ask for the student's explanation.