



Learning academic referencing and avoiding plagiarism by using Turnitin self-submissions

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Solutions for a new era in education



- Electronic comparison of students' work against electronic sources including other students' work (UK wide)
- Used standalone or integrated within WebCT
- Submission either by staff or students
- Originality report which shows sources used
- <http://www.submit.ac.uk>



Geocentric Vs. Heliocentric Universe

Processed on: 25-02-08 5:19 PM GMT
ID: 1671565
Word Count: 2192
Submitted: 1

Similarity: 16% include quoted exclude bibliography

mode: show highest matches together



It's Official: We Are No Longer

The Centre Of The Universe Written By **It was** a theory **that** 20

dates back to

as early as 6th century B.C. and credited to **the** Ancient Greeks. It **was believed to be** correct by many **of the** 3

great minds, including Plato and his student, Aristotle (5th century B.C.). This theory is

the geocentric model of the universe. 3

Plato and Aristotle developed the concept further but their model didn't become the accepted standard. It wasn't

until Claudius Ptolemaeus, a scientist **in the 2nd** century **A.** 18

D., who combined many centuries worth of astronomical workings from many cultures to form the standard that stood unchallenged until the 16th century. This challenging theory was the heliocentric model (literally sun-centered) of the universe, first developed by Nicolaus Copernicus. The believers of the geocentric universe used two everyday observations which compounded their beliefs. The first is that relative to

- 1 2% match (student papers from 24/02/08) ✕
Class: Physics 1B: The Stuff of the Universe [U00533] - 2007-2008 [4]
Assignment: Physics 1B Essay
Paper ID: [1671989](#)

- 2 2% match (student papers from 30/04/07) ✕
[Submitted to University of Lancaster](#)

- 3 2% match (student papers from 25/02/08) ✕
Class: Physics 1B: The Stuff of the Universe [U00533] - 2007-2008 [4]
Assignment: Physics 1B Essay
Paper ID: [1673814](#)

- 4 1% match (student papers from 14/12/07) ✕
[Submitted to Oxford Brookes University](#)

- 5 1% match (student papers from 25/02/08) ✕
Class: Physics 1B: The Stuff of the Universe [U00533] - 2007-2008 [4]
Assignment: Physics 1B Essay: Revision 2
Paper ID: [1672850](#)

- 6 1% match (internet from 29/10/03) ✕
<http://helios.acomp.usf.edu>

- 7 1% match (student papers from 25/02/08) ✕
Class: Physics 1B: The Stuff of the Universe [U00533] - 2007-2008 [4]



Courses

PHY1B

- First year Physics students
- 249 enrolled students
- First experience with essay writing at University
- Mixed feelings about essay writing
- Rationale for using Turnitin: **to avoid plagiarism**

33. The essay exercise was....

	Response Percent	Response Count
Useless (1)	7.5%	7
(2)	26.9%	25
(3)	24.7%	23
(4)	26.9%	25
Very Worthwhile (5)	14.0%	13
	<i>answered question</i>	93
	<i>skipped question</i>	5

“I thought the title was a little too open ended but the essay exercise was fantastic. I learnt a lot trying to understand for myself how something worked - although it was hugely based on something that didn't..”

“After initially not wanting to write an essay, I enjoyed getting stuck into a topic of my choice and properly researching the area.”

Use of Turnitin in PHY1B



Your location: [Home Page](#) > **Physics 1B essay**



[Physics1B Essay Announcement 2008](#)



[Own work declaration](#)



[Plagiarism check I](#)

You can submit your assignment here BEFORE you do your final submission - to check your originality report. If you are happy with it, go ahead and submit your assignment through the tool called "Physics 1B essay". If you are not happy with your score, you can modify your assignment and submit it again, using the plagiarism check II tool.



[Examples of Plagiarism - University of Princeton](#)

Have a look at this website to see a few examples of plagiarism: The first set of examples provides a range of textual plagiarism from verbatim copying to thorough paraphrasing. The second set of



[Physics 1B Essay](#)

Please use this tool for your FINAL plagiarism check - this will produce the originality report, which you have to print out and submit together with your paper BOTH as hard copies at the lecture.



[Plagiarism check II](#)

You can submit your assignment here BEFORE you do your final submission - to check your originality report. If you are happy with it, go ahead and submit your assignment through the tool called "Physics 1B essay". This is your last chance of checking your originality report before submitting your final paper.



[How to Recognize Plagiarism - University of Indiana](#)

10 more examples on how to recognize plagiarism, offering the plagiarised and the correct version (5 for word for word plagiarism and 5 for paraphrasing).

Physics 1B: The Stuff of the Universe [U00533] (2007-2008)

location: [Home Page](#) > [Physics 1B essay](#) > **Physics 1B Essay**

mit a paper, locate the paper you want to submit on your computer by clicking the "browse" button and enter a title for the paper. Select an enrolled student using the student
n to associate the submission with a student and click the submit button to upload the paper.

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We currently accept document files of the following types: **MS Word, WordPerfect, PostScript, PDF, HTML, RTF, and plain text.**

File size limit:
~9.5367431640625 MB




Support for referencing – PHY1B

Your location: Home Page > Physics 1B essay > Physics1B Essay Announcement 2008

Guides to scientific writing

- “How to write essays: A practical guide for students” by J. Clanch and B. Ballard (1985)
- Various websites, e.g.,
 - <http://classweb.gmu.edu/biologyresources/writingguide/ScientificPaper.htm>
 - http://geosun.sjsu.edu/~june/june/geol111/citations_and_references.htm
 - Note: references should give the full path (not just the web server) e.g. <http://server.somewhere/directory/documentName>
- “Writer in Residence”
 - If you want to improve your writing skills for the essay, or any other written work, Gerry Cambridge (Gerry.Cambridge@ed.ac.uk), is able to help you.



[Examples of Plagiarism - University of Princeton](#)

Have a look at this website to see a few examples of plagiarism: The first set of examples provides a range of textual plagiarism from verbatim copying to thorough paraphrasing. The second set of examples demonstrates plagiarism of a computer program. The comments that follow the examples offer guidance about how a source may be used and when a source must be cited.



[How to Recognize Plagiarism - University of Indiana](#)

10 more examples on how to recognize plagiarism, offering the plagiarised and the correct version (5 for word for word plagiarism and 5 for paraphrasing).

– Please read the University guide on plagiarism

- <http://www.aaps.ed.ac.uk/regulations/Plagiarism/Intro.htm>



Technical issues

PHY1B

- Insufficient guidance on why to use Turnitin, especially the self-assessment bit
- Difficulties finding originality report
- Difficulties excluding quotes and bibliography
- Reliability? Sources not always the ones that were used
- How thorough is database?
- **No help for referencing**
- Anonymity?
- Printing out reports is messy

“It was a good checking tool but to make it compulsory to hand in with the essay!?”

I felt that it was the university’s job to check if they suspected plagiarism, to be honest, if someone has plagiarised they will know they have, so why give us a check!?”

“Reported my originality report as 0%, which I don’t think is accurate :).”

“Potential for abuse”



Results from use

PHY1B

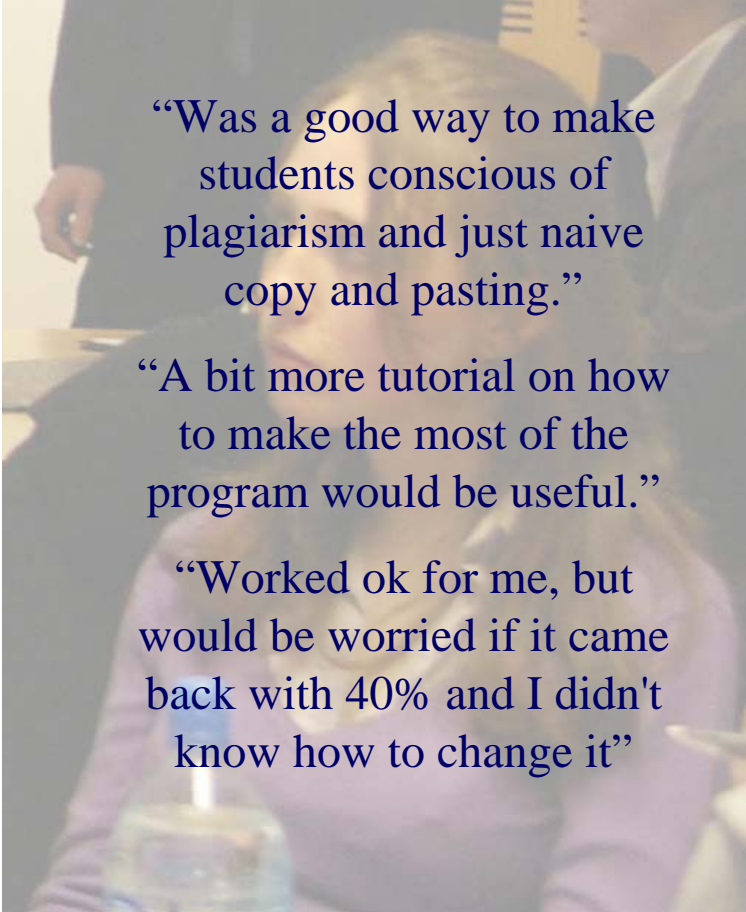
- 216 final submissions
- 192 submissions through Turnitin (89%)
- **No case of plagiarism detected this year**
- In previous years: 4-6 cases of plagiarism with 1-2 severe cases



Feedback from students

PHY1B

- 76% of students would like to use the Turnitin originality report next year
- 66% had no problems understanding originality report
- But only 42% think it helped their referencing skills



“Was a good way to make students conscious of plagiarism and just naive copy and pasting.”

“A bit more tutorial on how to make the most of the program would be useful.”

“Worked ok for me, but would be worried if it came back with 40% and I didn't know how to change it”



Courses – PG level

PHY1B

- First year Physics students
- 249 enrolled students
- First experience with essay writing at University
- Mixed feelings about essay writing
- Rationale for using Turnitin: avoiding plagiarism

MEd TESOL

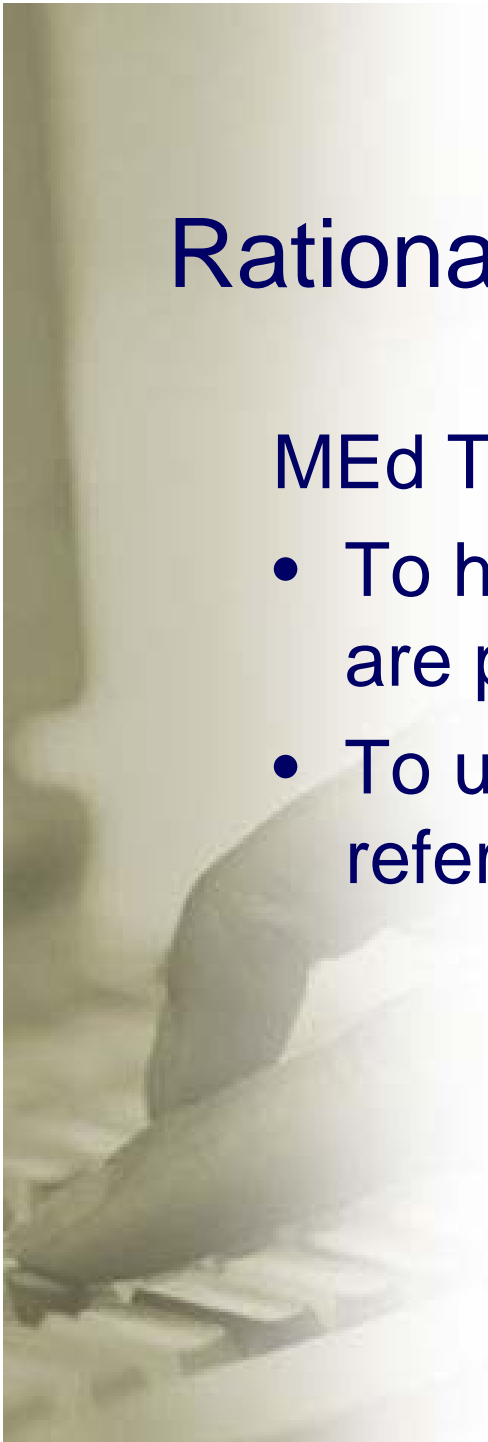
- Mature learners; Master's level
- Full-time; contact; 1 year
- 61 students enrolled
- Predominantly international students – diverse previous experiences
- Expectations of acknowledging “revered writers”



Rationale for using Turnitin

MEd TESOL

- To help students who might not realise they are plagiarizing
- To understand the conventions for referencing





Use of Turnitin

MEd TESOL

- Standalone
- Assignments handed in (hard copy) then electronic version sent to Turnitin
- All assignments are submitted to one place – possibility to crosscheck assignments in different courses
- Students can see originality report

assignment list		[redacted]'s portfolio	
#	assignment	title	submitted
1	playground trial 02-10-07 20-12-07	syllabus	16-12-07
2	peer review trial 02-10-07 09-10-07 PR 1 10-10-07 17-10-07 18-10-07		
3	another trial 16-10-07 23-04-08	key concepts	29-10-07
4	TESOL and the Learner 07-02-08 29-02-08	TESOL and the Learner Essay	11-02-08
5	Methodology 15-02-08 01-03-08	Methodology	19-02-08
6	practice 21-02-08 28-09-08		
8	Key Concepts 2 23-02-08 23-04-08	Key concepts 2	24-02-08
9	Key Concepts 1 23-02-08 01-04-08	Key concepts 1	24-02-08
10	TESOL Management 00-00-00 01-01-00		



Types of support for referencing

MEd TESOL

- Info on referencing in programme handbook (style given as used in TESOL publications)
- Information in online handbook (in WebCT)
- “Study skills” 5-week course including other presentation notes
- Examples in weekly programme meeting
- Expectation: correct academic citations and references as for a publication; marked with common marking scheme for taught PG



Technical issues

MEd TESOL

- Students signed in correctly in semester 1 but forgot passwords etc by first assignment
- Panic when results above 15%
- Difficulties excluding quotes and bibliography
- Titles etc show up as matches
- Staff also forgot details; decided to use a group account
- Some uploading of the “wrong” assignment
- No reply from another institution about a particular case

The screenshot shows a Turnitin Originality Report for a document titled "The learner Assignr" by a student with a redacted name. The report indicates a similarity of 38%. A highlighted match is identified as "Moray House School of Education MED TESOL Methodology TESOL and the learner" with a score of 21. The report also shows the document was submitted from Edinburgh University. The visible text of the assignment includes "assignment 'Language learning strategies in light of second language learning theories' Matriculation number: [redacted] Introduction: The growing increase of methods and approaches is a clear feature of".

turnitin
Originality Report

The learner Assignr
by [redacted] A

Similarity: 38% [include quoted](#) [include bibliography](#)

Edinburgh University

Moray House School of Education MED TESOL 21
Methodology TESOL and the learner

assignment "Language learning strategies in light of second language learning theories" Matriculation number: [redacted] Introduction: The growing increase of methods and approaches is a clear feature of



Feedback from users - staff

MEd TESOL

- Students keen to learn
- Provides talking point for tutorials
- Safe deposit
- Provides confirmation of “gut feeling” about changes in style
- Sudden flurry of attention to detail in referencing
- Difficulties in dealing with flood of problems in uploading
- “revision” versions confusing

A screenshot of a file list interface. It shows three rows of files. The first row is labeled '13 TESOL for Young Learners' with a folder icon and a document icon. The second row is labeled '14 test' with a folder icon and a document icon. The third row is labeled '14a Revision 1' with a folder icon and a document icon. The text 'TESOL for Young Learners' is underlined in blue, as is 'test' and 'Revision 1'.

13	TESOL for Young Learners		
14	test		
14a	Revision 1		



Feedback from users - students

MEd TESOL

- In general positive feedback (feedback from staff-student liaison meeting)
- Worry from some that a high percentage could mean a fail
- Majority want to see their originality report





Results from use

MEd TESOL

- Assignments handed in then electronic version sent to Turnitin
- One case of potential plagiarism noted; student allowed to resubmit with correct conventions
- Students encouraged to view own reports and get in touch with tutor if in doubt
- One case of student-reported collusion; still ongoing
- Originality reports (excluding quotes and bibliography) first assignment
 - Yellow (26%-39%): 20/61
 - Green (1%-25%): 41/61
- Originality reports (excluding quotes and bibliography) second assignment
 - Yellow (26%-39%): 1/61
 - Green (1%-25%): 59/61
 - Blue (0%): 1/61
- Enables external examiner to review more than sample if desired



Improvements and considerations

PHY1B

- Multiple submissions
- Only online submission
- **More guidance on referencing**
- More guidance on Turnitin
- Use of previous essays to show common problems

MEd TESOL

- Plenty practice assignments when learning to use but also for each assignment submission
- Guided sample assignments to submit for practice
- Online submissions helpful for questions with external – no need to send by post and can see full class
- Helpful for staff to be able to see student profile over several submissions (not possible if using with WebCT)



Any questions?

Further information on Turnitin:

- elearnhelp@ed.ac.uk
- ruby.rennie@ed.ac.uk
- daniela.gachago@ed.ac.uk
- <http://www.elearn.malts.ed.ac.uk/services/plagiarism/index.phtml>
- <http://www.submit.ac.uk/>