

CONTRACT CHEATING: THE WARNING SIGNS

A LOW 'SIMILARITY' SCORE IN TURNITIN

UNRELATED WORK

HIGHER STANDARD OF ACADEMIC WRITING

WRONG UNFAMILIAR REFERENCE STYLE

DOCUMENT PROPERTIES

UNUSUAL REFERENCES

Contract Cheating can be difficult to detect when marking but there are some triggers that can highlight if a student may have submitted work that is not their own and purchased their assessment task from an essay mill or similar essay bank or had someone else write all or part of the assessment task.

Identifying Contract Cheating while Marking

A low Similarity Score in Turnitin: Turnitin cannot identify some forms of copied, purchased, or reused material, and sometimes gives false positives. In general a low similarity report is always worth investigating if contract cheating is suspected.

Unrelated Work: Content that is included but has not been covered in the Unit material or discussed in tutorials, or the approach to the assessment is not as outlined in the assessment guidelines or as discussed in tutorials.

A Higher Standard of Work: The standard of academic writing or written English is much higher than expected and as seen in a previous assessment, discussion board thread, e-mail or the students spoken English.

Wrong or Unfamiliar Reference Style: a reference style that is not commonly used at ECU or as outlined in the assessment guidelines.

Unexpected References: sources are credible but are not as unexpected or unfamiliar, may not be subscribed to by the ECU Library or available from Google Scholar. References may also be old or there is an overuse of books.

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