

Case Studies/Scenarios for Plagiarism Workshop

Case 1

Patrick, a student in his final trimester of a Diploma was given a mark of 0 for an assignment submitted in Week 12 of the trimester. The lecturer was very experienced and considered it a fairly clear-cut case of cheating, in which the student had used another student's assignment. Turnitin had identified a significant match to a past student's assignment. The lecturer concluded that the student had sourced the assignment and copied it with some changes.

On further investigation, Patrick was able to provide copies of several hard copy sources which he had used in his essay – the same sources used in the original essay matched on Turnitin. While there were definitely some shortcomings in the referencing of both essays, Patrick was able to demonstrate an understanding of the material and evidence of his references.

Complete the Plagiarism Reporting form for this case.

What do you think should be the final outcome, penalty and recommendations in this case?

What are the possible consequences for the student if the lecturer failed to follow the process?

What possible consequences could be faced by the College?

Case 2

A student in her second trimester submitted an assignment which at face value would score a very high mark – around a 26/30. It was very well written, showed understanding of the topic and subject content and was correctly referenced.

The student's spoken English was poor and she had scored poorly in class quizzes and activities. The lecturer was surprised at the level of written English in the assignment. Turnitin did not reveal any plagiarism, so the lecturer returned the assignment and recorded the mark on Moodle.

Subsequently, the student's exam score was extremely low. A Plagiarism Report should have been submitted.

Complete the Plagiarism Reporting form for this case.

What are the possible explanations for the differences in results?

What would be the likely outcome, penalty and recommendations of this case?

Case 3

An assignment submitted via Turnitin by one of your students has identified a 100% match to an assignment submitted in another class to a different lecturer. The student is in his first trimester of Certificate.

Complete the Plagiarism Reporting form for this case.

What are the possible explanations for the match?

What would be the likely outcome, penalty and recommendations of this case?