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## SECTION D: TURNITIN.COM

1. McMaster University approves the use of Turnitin.com for the following reasons:
    - a) prevention – if students know their academic work is being checked for plagiarism, they will hopefully use proper citation methods
    - b) protection of honest students and their work
    - c) detection – with the type of technology in common use today, it is necessary to use a detection tool which checks academic work against the Internet
  
  2. Guidelines for the use of Turnitin.com
    - a) papers should be submitted to Turnitin.com only with the student's knowledge
    - b) the instructor should indicate that Turnitin.com will be used in the course outline and/or on the assignment details
    - c) the use of Turnitin.com cannot be mandatory\*. If a student refuses to submit his or her work to Turnitin.com, he or she cannot be compelled to do so and should not be penalized. Instructors are advised to accept a hard copy of the assignment and grade it as per normal methods. The assignment can be subjected to a Google search or some other kind of search engine if the instructor wishes.
- \* Some students object to the use of Turnitin.com because of ownership issues. All work submitted to Turnitin.com becomes part of their database and is used to check authenticity of other student's assignments. Some students object to their work being put in the database and others object to their work being used by Turnitin.com.

## RELATED POLICIES:

1. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) applies to universities. Instructors should take care to protect student names, student numbers, grades and all other personal information at all times. For example, the submission and return of assignments and the posting of grades must be done in a manner that ensures confidentiality - see <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/fippa/fippa.cfm>
2. [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
3. [Academic Accommodation of Students With Disabilities Policy](#)
4. [Student Code of Conduct](#)
5. [Research Ethics Policy](#)
6. Risk Management policy for field trips – see [Field-Trip-and-Electives-Planning-and-Approval-Program](#)
7. [Conflict of Interest-Undergraduate and Graduate Studies](#)  
[Rights and Responsibilities of Undergraduate Students During Work Stoppages that Substantially Disrupt Academic Activities](#)