

Discussion starters for tough conversations

Addressing students regarding plagiarised assignments is not an easy task for even the most seasoned educator. Both students and educators often enter these conversations with tensions raised.

To promote a climate of academic understanding, consider how you will begin and continue these conversations before you approach the student. Pair these discussion topics and conversation starters with the [Approaching a student regarding questionable work](#) document to help create teachable moments that will help your students learn from their mistakes.

Topics to address during student-educator conversations:

- Student strengths demonstrated in the assignment
- Student weaknesses demonstrated in the assignment
- Student struggles, as identified by the student
- Plagiarism apparent in assignment
- Intentional plagiarism—copied and pasted large chunks of text, paper mill payments, etc.
- Unintentional plagiarism—incorrect citations, improper quoting or paraphrasing, lack of skill, etc.
- Managing time to avoid plagiarism
- Skill deficiencies and ways to remediate them
- Where to next?
 - Suggestions for student review and practice of concepts or skills
 - Revision of assignment
 - Periodic check-ins to ensure understanding

Conversation jump starters

Use these conversation jump starters to help you begin your conversation or keep it progressing effectively. Personalise these to best fit each individual situation that you encounter.



When we look at your assignment, we can see [errors, evidence of plagiarism, etc.] in these places. Let's work together to find ways to avoid this/improve it in the future.



Explain your process for completing this assignment. Let's look at areas that you are proud of and areas that you think could use some extra improvement.



Let's examine your Turnitin Similarity Report together. What areas are too similar to other texts? How can we change the way you wrote this section in order to make the writing more authentically your own?



What processes have worked well for you in your other classes? How can we consider implementing similar strategies in this class in order to optimise your work?