



Impact Grant Application for 2015-16

COVER SHEET

The Hill Country Education Foundation created the *Impact Grant* program to help provide teachers and campuses with the resources and tools needed to significantly enhance student educational experiences. Grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to individual teachers. A team-based application may request up to \$5000.

Project Title: Promoting Autonomy and Technology Through Writing and Research with Turnitin.Com

Participating School: Vandegrift High School

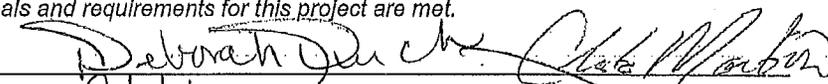
Total Dollar Amount Requested: \$ 6000

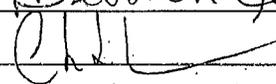
Grant Manager/Primary Contact's Name: Debbie Quick and Christa Martin

Position and Campus/Dept: AP ELA 4 and Dean of Instruction

Day Phone: 570-2321 Night Phone: 512-228-4613 Email Address: debbie.quick@leanderisd.org/ christa.thompson-martin@leanderisd.org

I certify that this would be a good use of funds and supports the district goals and/or the campus improvement plan. I will ensure that the goals and requirements for this project are met.

Grant Manager Signature: 

Campus Principal Signature(s): 

Please list all other participating principals and LISD staff and obtain their signatures of commitment.

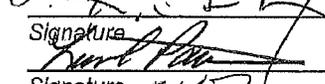
Zandra Lopez, VHS Librarian

Printed Name


Signature

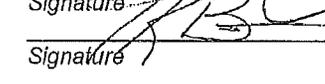
Kirsten Mulligan, English Department Head

Printed Name


Signature

Liesl Patteson, Social Studies Department Head

Printed Name

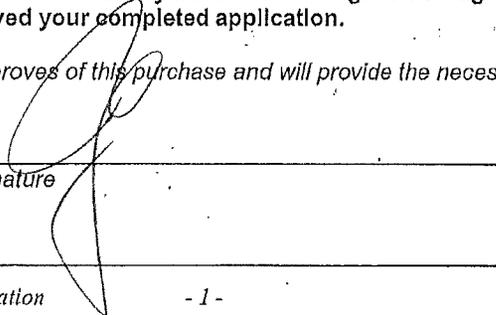

Signature

Troy Bruce, Science Department Head

Printed Name

After your school's principal sign's the document, please submit this application directly to the Business Services Department by March 2nd for district approval. They will return the signed application to the grant manager. If they request modifications to the application, please do so upon receipt. The complete application must be submitted to HCEF by March 25th. The grant manager will be contacted by HCEF to confirm that we have received your completed application.

I certify that Leander ISD approves of this purchase and will provide the necessary supports to maintain sustainability of the program.

Chief Financial Officer: 
Signature

Impact Grant Application

COMMITMENT LETTER

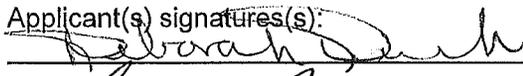
Promoting Autonomy and Technology Through Writing and Research with Turnitin.Com

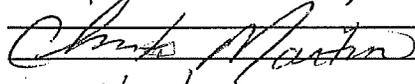
As the party(ies) responsible for the execution and administration of the proposed project, the undersigned pledge to:

- ✓ Submit a detailed accounting of all Hill Country Education Foundation funds expended as part of this grant to the HCEF Treasurer.
- ✓ Submit a final project Evaluation Form within thirty (30) days of completing this project.
- ✓ Obtain parental permission to photograph or videotape participating students.
- ✓ Inform HCEF of program events and other opportunities within participating campuses to use for publicity purposes.
- ✓ Gather work samples, and/or other visuals to be submitted with the final project report.

I/We recognize that providing the accounting, reporting and publicity items listed above are a condition of funding and therefore are my/our obligation as a grant recipient and manager.

Applicant(s) signature(s):





Date: 2/25/15



Impact Grant Application for 2015-16

NOTE: Please adhere to the number of pages provided. The application should be **no more than 7 pages long**, including the cover sheet, this page, project details, and the budget request form. Your proposed evaluation form must be attached to the back of the packet and does not count toward these 7 pages. To ensure anonymity during the selection process, **please do not include your name, the name of your school, or the name of your school's mascot in the title or body of your application.** To denote different locations, use Campus A, Campus B, Campus C or Site A, Site B, Site C.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT:

Project title: Promoting Autonomy and Technology Through Writing and Research with Turnitin.Com

Grade level of students served: → Elementary (PreK-5) → Middle School (6-8) * **High School (9-12)**

Specific group of students served by course/club name: All students

Proposed project term: One year Two years ****Three+ years**

Start date: 8/1/2015 End date: 6/1/2018

NOTE: Funds will be granted for one year only. For this grant period, the project must be implemented in the 2015-2016 school year, completed by June 1, 2016 and evaluated by June 30, 2016.

Key personnel conducting project: One High School campus; All teachers/ students conducting research, writing assignments and projects.

NOTE: Use descriptive terms, not specific names. (for example: 3 middle school campuses, five 1st grade teachers, etc.)

Category (Circle): Leadership Entrepreneurship Science, Technology Engineering & Math (STEM)

Useful links to your program information: http://turnitin.com/en_us/customers/middle-and-high-school;
<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/02/20/6174703/phoenix-union-high-school-district.html#> ,
<http://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2012/writing-tool/>

Summary of project (100 words or less):

Students will continue to utilize Turnitin to provide online, self-assessments in all stages of the writing process. We will continue to implement this program across the curriculum utilizing the "Originality Tool" to increase the focus of authentic writing, the "Grademark" feature to allow teachers commentary on and evaluation of student writing online and the "Peer Review" to provide students with active real-time participation and feedback for themselves and their classmates. This college readiness tool has more than "3,500 higher education institutions using Turnitin[.com], including 69% of the top 100 colleges and universities and 56% of the top 100 high schools in the U.S. News and World Report Best Colleges/ High Schools list."

PROJECT DETAIL:

Please answer questions #1 through #5 using no more than 3 pages total while adhering to the format guidelines.

1. Details of Proposed Project

Outline the procedures, methods, or activities for the project and *include the timeline* and resources to achieve each step.

The license for **turnitin.com** is renewable annually; therefore, the following timeline is proposed as a means of maximizing the use and measuring the benefit to students:

- Upon grant approval, complete agreement with Turnitin.com (August 2015)
- Dean of Instruction will continue to implement professional development at beginning of school year for returning teachers and train all new teachers on Turnitin and set up teacher accounts. (August 2015)
- Dean of Instruction and Librarian will create on-going short training modules for specific tools. (July 2015)
- During second week of school, teachers will continue to train freshman students and update current student logins with Turnitin "On Demand" training sessions through PIT class. (September 2015)
- All classes conducting research and writing assignments will continue to require students to submit their papers/ presentations to **turnitin.com** to evaluate their writing process. (Ongoing)

Through turnitin portal, we will be using the following resources with every student:

- Teachers will continue to provide individual feedback for each student online via drop and drag, written, and voice recordings. Feedback is used in the draft and revision process to create the final submission.
- Peer reviews online will continue to give additional feedback through guided questions that the teacher can create depending on focus of the peer review.
- Originality Check will continue to ensure students are creating authentic work using proper citations. Students will complete evaluation matrices and self-reflections to indicate the percentages of direct quotations, paraphrasing, and original work, as well as the impact this could have on the final grade.
- All students will continue to use this tool while completing research to positively impact their work as they write with "real time" results, after which, students will also complete an evaluative instrument providing measurable feedback.
- In January and again in June, we will continue to access reports to monitor usage of all tools. We will monitor the trends in authenticity of writing as well as the overall improvement in writing processes.

With technological resources so accessible, it is imperative students discern how academic plagiarism negatively impacts their academic coursework, college achievements, and impending career success. Turnitin allows students the autonomy and the availability to improve on all aspects of the assignment or project until the due date, to meet deadlines, and to own their learning by uploading and assessing their own personal documents (as they must do in college). The roll out of student devices will start with this year with 9th grade allowing Turnitin to be used as a drop box for all written work. This will increase accessibility right to the classroom.

2. Benefit and Adherence to HCEF Mission

Please describe how this project will benefit students in Leander ISD. Describe how your project enhances the educational experience in one of these categories: Leadership; Entrepreneurship; Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM); and College and Career Readiness. Be specific about the advantages your project offers. Give reasons why this proposal should be funded.

This program empowers students to take ownership of their writing; all of LISD's five high schools are currently using Turnitin. Students have access to a technology tool in high school that they will be required to use in most colleges. (Usage reports are attached). Students learn to assess themselves throughout the research process to evaluate and improve their writing proficiency and in turn their academic performance.

Here are just a few comments from *our* teachers regarding the benefits and impact of Turnitin this year:

- Turnitin.com has improved the technical writing of my physics students. Because the system allows for revisions and anonymous peer reviewed feedback, my students are able to receive honest feedback from their peers and then revise their work before submitting it for a final grade. Also, the electronic nature of the system has forced the students to learn mathematical equation editing – a skill they will need for technical papers in college and beyond. I cannot imagine going back to my old lab report system of hand written papers and biased peer reviews – I love turnitin.com.
- I've used it, and my favorite part is the peer review!

- I have liked using turnitin.com for PreAP lab reports. It makes it so much simpler to provide comments to students on their lab reports. In the past, I had problems communicating the students exactly what was wrong with their lab reports and why they got points off---I marked on a paper rubric, but students had trouble going back and forth between the grading rubric and the actual paper they submitted. Using the highlight and quickmarks tools in turnitin.com eliminates this problem and makes both grading the lab reports much easier for me and also makes student understanding of why they got a particular grade better.
- Students love the ownership and surprisingly the accountability of Turnitin.com. They like that they can see if they turned in the assignment and that they get a "confirmation" receipt that they can save. They like the convenience of turning assignments in wherever they are, whenever they can before the day/time due. I love that I can quickly view who has turned in assignments without digging through 150 papers.
- My kids all voted to have current event analysis papers due always on a Friday (even if they don't have me for class that day) because it was easier for them to remember that they always have a paper due on Friday for me, and they don't have to come to my class to turn the assignment in.
- So for my students, what they have enjoyed is sheer convenience. They do appreciate seeing right away how much material is found in a similarity check. If it is "0%" then they have not included quotes from their current events, and they go back and add quotes. If they have over 10% similar, they know they have too much quoted material and need to focus on analysis and commentary more. They use it as a self-check before I ever even see the work.
- I use it in APES for student abstracts and their peer reviews of these abstracts. It is a wonderful tool, and I hope we can keep the funding for it!

There are three main components Turnitin offers making it an essential tool for students and teachers:

- **Originality Check:** http://www.turnitin.com/en_us/features/originalitycheck
Focuses on authentic, original student writing (drafts, revisions, final submission)
Facilitates student-centered feedback and assessment
Ensures proper citation of sources, appropriate use of quotations, and more thorough research
Improves writing across the curriculum, in every subject area (STAAR requirement)
Accommodates multi-media student work. Submit all Written text, powerpoint presentations, videos, etc.
- **Grademark:** http://www.turnitin.com/en_us/features/grademark
Personalized teacher feedback, including both text and voice recordings
80% of students prefer personalized, digital feedback from their teachers
Turnitin for iPad provides online & offline grading capabilities for teachers
Reduces the time teachers spend grading written work by up to 31%.
- **Peermark:** http://www.turnitin.com/en_us/features/peermark
Anonymous peer feedback on student writing
Guiding questions, provided by Turnitin or created by the teacher
Focus on writing clear and persuasive content for an audience
Emphasis on critical thinking skills

Students will continue to utilize data provided by turnitin to evaluate the positives and negatives of their own writing and research, so their future writing and research projects in college and career situations will be met with a keener eye and a deeper understanding of the importance of avoiding academic plagiarism, as well as the ability to correct negative patterns in their writing style.

3. Rationale for Initiative

Why do you need to do this project? Please list the educational goals and objectives of this project. Indicate how the project is related to a specific school district goal(s), curriculum area and the TEKS.

We have a professional and an ethical responsibility to prepare students for writing and research they will encounter in their college and career paths. Considering that writing is often the lowest score on the PSAT, SAT and STAAR exam, this can be viewed as an investment in competent, masterful writers. Just from one year of use, students are experiencing "Ah Ha" moments as they submit their papers for authenticity and get immediate feedback from the individual student reports. It has been an incredible teaching tool that will serve them well as they enter college. Turnitin offers flexible avenues to assist teachers in identifying clear writing goals, guide students to create writing strategies for improvement and give students the tools to learn to recognize quality writing before final submission. This resource provides students with a look into the future expectations of universities which require authentic, advanced, rich writing. Finally, this invaluable tool is a must for progressive, technologically advanced, data driven schools and educators in the year 2015 who want to impact students' writing proficiency.

TEKS addressed using the turnitin.com resource: Students are expected to:

- brainstorm, consult with others, decide upon a topic, and formulate a major research question to address the major research topic; and
- formulate a plan for engaging in in-depth research on a complex, multi-faceted topic.
- research/gather sources. Students determine, locate, and explore the full range of relevant sources addressing a research question and systematically record the information they gather. Students are expected to:
- follow the research plan to gather evidence from experts on the topic and texts written for informed audiences in the field, distinguishing between reliable and unreliable sources and avoiding over-reliance on one source;
- systematically organize relevant and accurate information to support central ideas, concepts, and themes, outline ideas into conceptual maps/timelines, and separate factual data from complex inferences; and
- paraphrase, summarize, quote, and accurately cite all researched information according to a standard format (e.g., author, title, page number), differentiating among primary, secondary, and other sources.
- Research/ Synthesizing Information: Students clarify research questions, evaluate and synthesize collected information.

Students are expected to:

- modify the major research question as necessary to refocus the research plan;
- differentiate between theories and the evidence that supports them and determine whether the evidence found is weak or strong and how that evidence helps create a cogent argument; and
- critique the research process at each step to implement changes as the need occurs and is identified.
- Research/Organizing and Presenting Ideas: Students organize and present their ideas and information according to the purpose of the research and their audience. Students are expected to:
- provide an analysis that supports and develops personal opinions, as opposed to simply restating existing information;
- use a variety of formats and rhetorical strategies to argue for the thesis;
- develop an argument that incorporates the complexities of and discrepancies in information from multiple sources and perspectives while anticipating and refuting counter-arguments;
- use a style manual (e.g., *Modern Language Association, Chicago Manual of Style*) to document sources and format written materials; and
- write with sufficient length and complexity to address the topic.

4. Specific Method of Evaluation

How will you measure the success of this project? Describe the methodology you plan to employ. You must be able to statistically demonstrate the impact of this grant. Relate the methodology to the stated objectives and make the evaluation measurable. In your final report you will need to include hard data from tests, surveys, participation rates, etc. **Please submit a copy of the evaluation instrument that you will use in your classroom to measure the success of your project along with this grant application.**

- Teachers will evaluate the Turnitin usage reports to track process of student writing across content areas.
- Students will complete evaluation matrices to indicate the percentages of direct quotations, paraphrasing, and original work found in their research paper.
- Students will compare and contrast those numbers to the acceptable standard for research papers with similar length requirements.
- Students will then complete the reflective portion of the self-evaluation and comment on the following:
 - If you had had access to this tool during previous research project(s), how would this have impacted your final product(s)?
 - Given the information you have gathered, did you earn the grade you received, or should some of the people you quoted and paraphrased have received your grade?
 - How did the online feedback from the teacher/peers impact your final submission?
 - How did **turnitin.com** impact your writing style and syntax?

5. Sustainability

Explain any plans to continue this project on a short-term or a long-term basis. Describe *how* your project will be sustained in the future. Include any reasons why this project would not be continued.

Turnitin.com is a highly regarded and established company; therefore, the utilization of this resource should continue to be available every year. Our school moved forward with implementation because of the funds allotted from HCEF, and the district was able to pull funds from various special programs to allow a district licensing including the other 4 high schools for the 2014-2015 school year. Our use of this tool during the 2014-2015 school year is well documented (see supporting attachment). The licensing is an annual fee, we are not able to fully fund this product on our own. We will continue to request grant monies, reach out to PTSA, and request campus funds as we are able. As more of these companies open, the annual cost may decrease, but at this time, **turnitin.com** is the industry standard, and the most highly regarded tool of its type.

BUDGET REQUEST FORM:

Be as specific as possible with your budget information. Include materials, supplies, equipment and fees. Itemize direct costs, specify prices of, and include make and model of any equipment and materials to be purchased.

Budget Item	Is this item reusable? (yes/no)	Number of Budget Item(s) Needed	Vendor	Total Cost, Including Shipping
Turnitin.com	No, renew each year	1	Turnitin	\$5,860
Dedicated Institutional Training	Yes	1	Turnitin	\$ 600
Secondary Ed Fee	No	1	Turnitin	\$ 675
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				\$
				\$
TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED FOR PROJECT=				\$7,135.40
AMOUNT REQUESTED= (MUST NOT EXCEED \$2,500)				\$

1. Total number of students directly impacted by HCEF Impact Grant: All students doing writing and research

2. Budgeted Cost per Student Participating in Project (total amount requested/# of students impacted): \$3.16

3. Without funding from the Hill Country Education Foundation, will this project still be implemented?
 Yes * Maybe No

4. Does the amount requested cover all expenses?
 Yes *No; How much remains to be funded by other sources? \$1,135.40 from the VHS AP budget

5. Is the success of this project contingent upon other funding?
 Yes * No

1. If you have applied for funding elsewhere, please list the names of the organization and the amount requested. Please indicate whether or not that funding has been approved and if not, the expected date of approval.
 - Lisa Brittain approved use of AP Funds totaling \$1,135.40.

Don't forget to attach a copy of your proposed evaluation tool to this application.

You must submit your entire application packet to Leander IDS's Chief Financial Officer by **March 2nd, 2015** to receive district approval. <mailto:lucas.janda@leanderisd.org>

You must submit your entire application packet with required signatures by **March 25, 2015** to: GrantRequest@HillCountryEdFoundation.org

The HCEF looks forward to reviewing your application.
 Award notifications will occur in May.



Company Address iParadigms, LLC
1111 Broadway, 3rd Floor
Oakland, CA 94607
US

Created Date 2/24/2015
Quote Number 00060821
Expiration Date 3/28/2015

Prepared By Jennifer Knighton
Phone (866) 816-5046 x312
E-mail jknighton@turnitin.com

Contact Name Christa Martin
Phone (512) 570-2321
Email christa.thompson-martin@leanderisd.org

Bill To Name Leander Independent School District
Bill To PO Box 218
Leander, TX 78646-0218
US

Service Start Date 8/13/2015

Service End Date 8/12/2016

Product	Quantity	Service Duration	List Price	Annual Unit Price	Percent Discount	Total Price
Dedicated Institutional Training	1.00	12.0	USD 600.00	USD 600.00	0	USD 600.00
Secondary Ed Fee	1.00	12.0	USD 675.00	USD 675.00	0	USD 675.00
Turnitin	2,254.00	12.0	USD 2.30	USD 2.60	0	USD 5,860.40

Subtotal USD 7,135.40
Tax USD 0.00
Grand Total USD 7,135.40

Please Note:

Products sold to certain states are subject to tax. iParadigms charges sales tax in these states: AZ, IL, IN, MA, MI, NM, NY, OH, SD, TX, UT, WA, PA. The sales tax indicated on the quote is an estimate. The sales tax ultimately charged will be calculated when you are invoiced and will reflect applicable state and local taxes.

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Cancellation policy:

Cancellations may only be made within the first 30 days from account activation and only for accounts that have five or fewer uploads. All lapsed accounts are subject to a reactivation fee of 8% of the license cost or \$50.00, whichever is greater. All fees must be paid prior to account reactivation.

Effectiveness Report for:

Vandegrift High School

The following report provides a look into the levels of usage of Turnitin at your institution.

Throughout this report, your institution is compared to a population of 300 other institutions of similar type (High School, 2-Year, 4-Year, etc), size (US only), and region (country or US state).

Submission of Volume over Time:

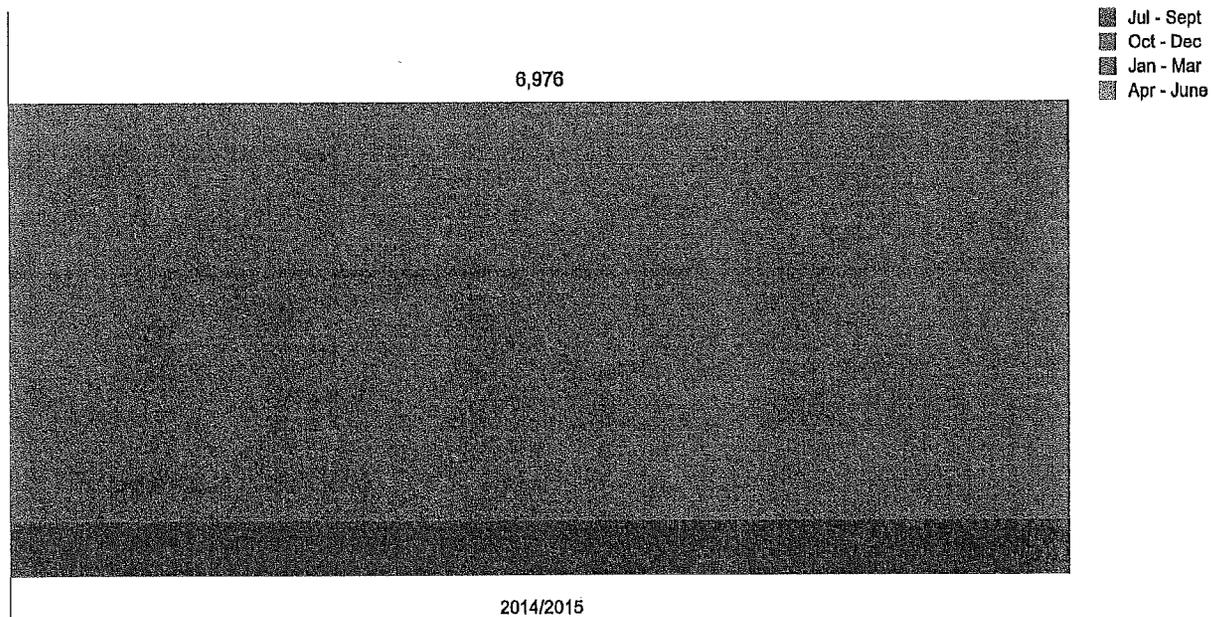
While this report demonstrates usage over a twelve month period, our current usage report only reflects the first six months of school. Research projects are ongoing throughout the year; therefore, the next usage report will indicate a significant increase if not an actual doubling of turnitin.com usage.

Vandegrift High School

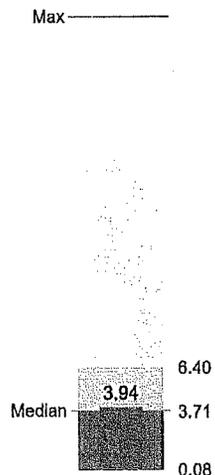
Submission Volume Over Time

Using Turnitin for originality checking is a proven method for reducing unoriginal content submitted by students. A recent study shows that institutions using Turnitin for originality reduce levels of unoriginal writing by an average of 33% with some schools seeing reduction of up to 85%. The more broadly Turnitin is used, the greater the reduction.

The chart below shows the total number of Originality Report submissions to Turnitin from your institution in a given academic year, banded by quarter. The academic year is defined as July 1st–June 30th.



Total Submissions Per Student Last 12 Months



In the last 12 months, your institution generated 6,976 Originality Reports. Based on the maximum number of students using Turnitin at your school in that same period, this equates to 3.94 Originality Reports per student. The chart to the left shows your institution's usage level as compared to the 25th, 50th (median) and 75th percentiles of usage, based on a population including your institution and 300 other comparable institutions.

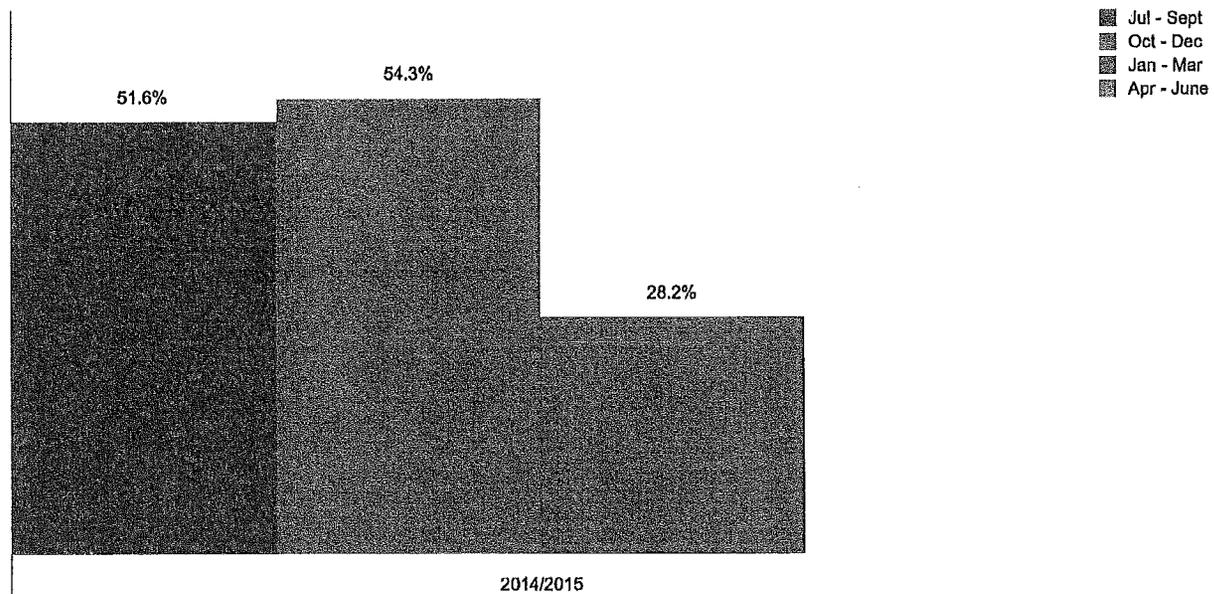
Statistics demonstrate that over time with teacher training and continued availability, product (turnitin.com) usage becomes the norm for all written work increasing the volume of usage and raising the statistics to the highest level as validated by other schools in the Austin area.

Vandegrift High School

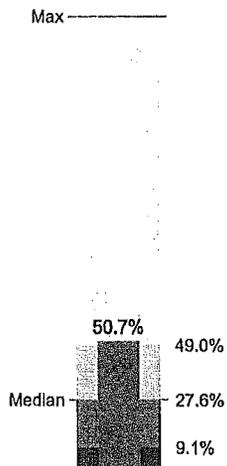
Percentage of Submissions Graded Online Over Time

In the last few years, instructors have increasingly adopted Turnitin for online feedback and grading. Users report that Turnitin allows them to provide richer feedback on student papers while streamlining one of the most time-consuming aspects of their job — marking papers.

The chart below shows the percentage of submissions that were graded using Turnitin's online grading tools in a certain quarter grouped by academic year. The academic year is defined as July 1st–June 30th



Papers Graded Online last 12 Months

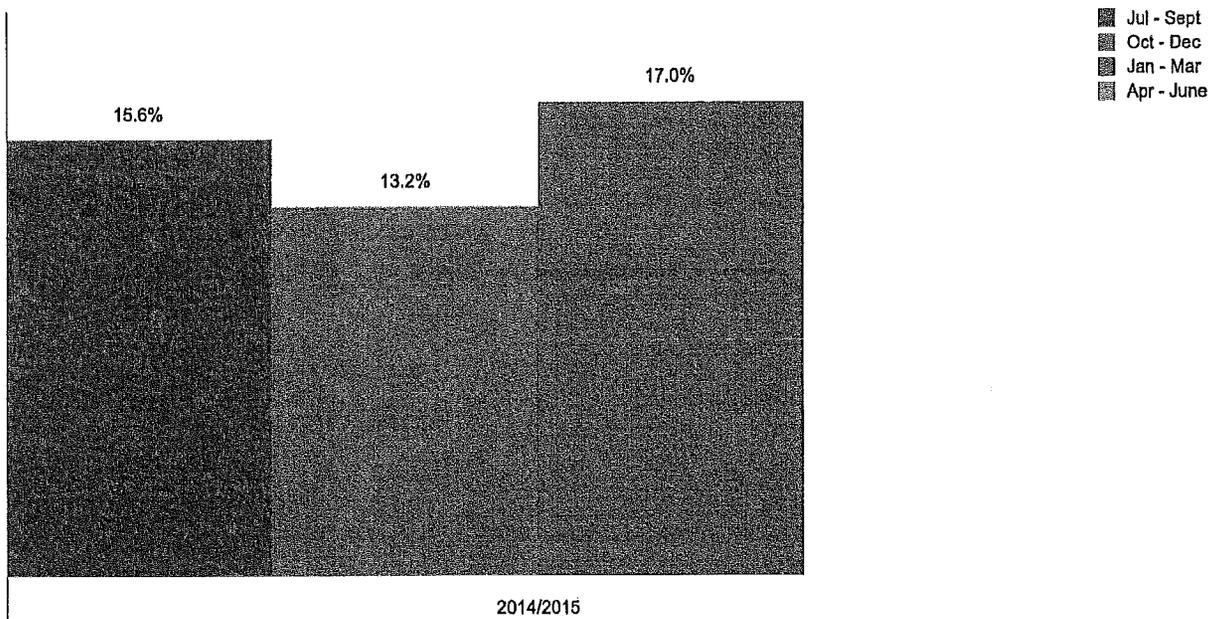


In the last 12 months, your institution generated 6,976 Originality Reports. Of those, 3,534(50.7%) were graded using Turnitin's online grading tools. The chart to the left shows your institution's usage level as compared to the 25th, 50th (median) and 75th percentiles of usage, based on a population including your institution and 300 other comparable institutions.

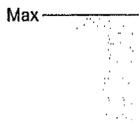
Vandegrift High School

Percentage of Highly Unoriginal Submissions Over Time

The chart below shows the percentage of “high unoriginality” submissions (submissions that contained more than 50% unoriginal content) that were submitted to Turnitin by your institution in a certain quarter, grouped by academic year. The academic year is defined as July 1st–June 30th.



High Unoriginality Papers (50-100%) Last 12 Months



In the last 12 months, your institution generated 6,976 Originality Reports. Of those, 976(14.0%) contained more than 50% matched content. The chart to the left shows your institution's usage level as compared to the 25th, 50th (median) and 75th percentiles of usage, based on 300 other institutions in your cohort.

