Identifying Disturbing Content in a Student’s Academic Work

The following are examples of content in a student’s academic work that may raise concerns about a student’s mental state and/or signal the need for possible UA intervention:

- Disconcerting content inappropriate for the actual assignment
- Incoherent, nonsensical, or bizarre writing that is unusual for the student
- Disclosure within assignment of previous abuse and trauma involving the student
- Artwork depicting real or imagined traumatic events and/or personal violence
- Content noting explicit or tasteless sexual violence
- Continual ideation(s) relating to warnings of future personal violence
- Prevalence of dark, negative, or ominous images/themes within the assignment
- Dominating themes of rejection, entitlement, grandiosity, or attention-seeking
- Overuse or inappropriate use of revenge as a complementing subject matter
- Characters whose actions are violently disproportionate to events in a narrative
- Content so extreme or profane that it does not serve any reasonable purpose
- Content that is a dramatic departure from the student’s normal social demeanor
- Presentation(s) that create concerns for the personal safety of fellow classmates
- Self-characterization by the student as an ‘avenger’
- Overuse or inappropriate use of profanity

This list is not all-inclusive in nature, nor is a single factor specifically indicative of future violent behavior. The list is simply provided to assist in identifying students whose behavior may require the immediate intervention of appropriate UA personnel.