



Originality Reports in Turnitin

This guide explains how to access and interpret a student's originality report. It also describes how to configure originality report settings to enable students to make changes to their work and resubmit prior to an assignment due date.

WHAT IS AN ORIGINALITY REPORT?

When a student submits a Turnitin assignment through Moodle, Turnitin generates an originality report. This report identifies how similar a student's paper is to existing works and provides information about the sources that it matches. To create this report, Turnitin checks a student's paper against a range of sources:

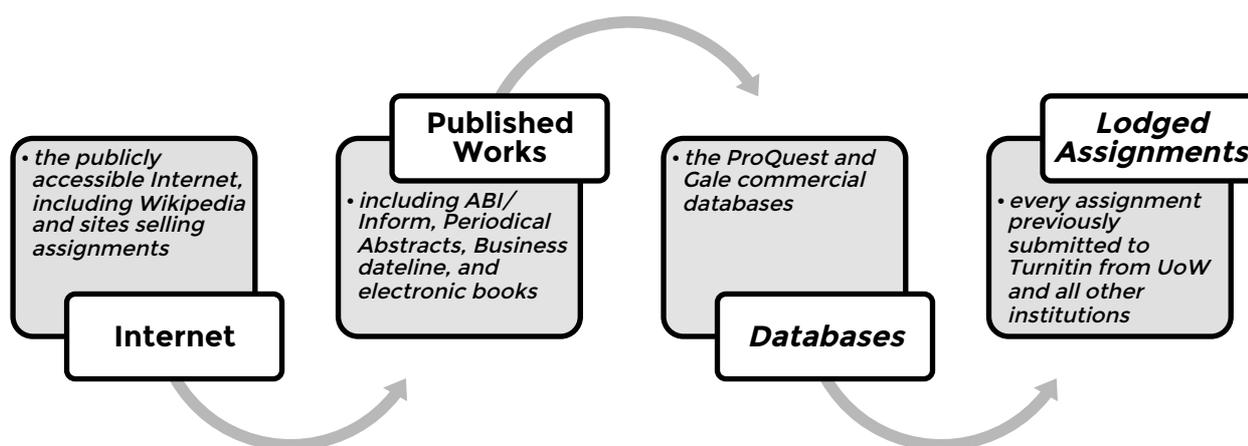


Figure 1 source: Rogerson, 2014)

Feedback from the Originality report can be used as a guide to help students direct their own learning and improve their academic writing skills. The report provides an overall matching similarity percentage and feedback about a student's work in terms of:

- **Content:** Correctly acknowledging someone else's ideas and writing
- **Punctuation:** Correct use of punctuation to identify direct quotes that have been properly cited
- **Quality of references:** Inclusion of recognised authors and well cited papers
- **Format of references:** Presented in the correct format with all details

RETRIEVING AN ORIGINALITY REPORT

To retrieve a student's originality report click on the similarity percentage in the Submission Inbox page of your assignment link in Moodle.

This will take you to the document viewer screen.

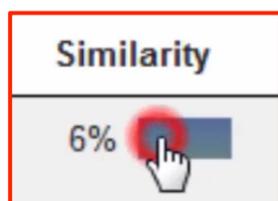


Figure 2 similarity percentage in Submission Inbox

To print or download a copy of the report:

1. In the *Document Viewer*, go to the bottom right corner of the page and click on *Text Only Report*.
2. Click on the *print* icon to open a printable version of the report.
3. Close the window when printing is finished.
4. Click on the download icon to download and save a copy of the report to a computer.
5. To restore the Originality Report to the normal view click the *Document Viewer* button on the top left of the page.

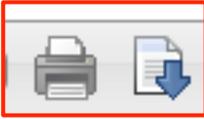


Figure 3 Print and Download icons in document viewer

INTERPRETING AN ORIGINALITY REPORT

The originality report will provide an overall matching similarity percentage. This percentage indicates how much of a student's paper is matched to existing work. The percentages in the sidebar provide a more detailed breakdown of the matched sources that contribute to this overall similarity percentage.

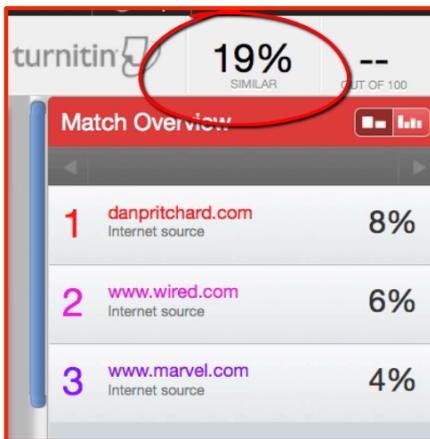


Figure 4 similarity matching index

The number and colour of the sources in the side bar match the numbers and colours highlighted in your paper. This indicates the parts of a paper that match to existing content from the Turnitin database.

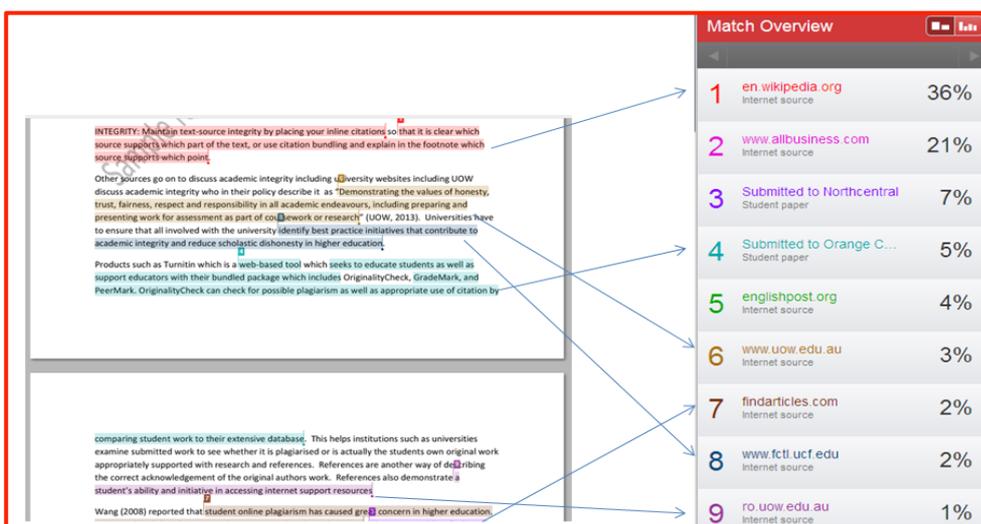


Figure 5 similarity matches highlighted in paper

If you click on the matching text within the paper, the matching source of the text will be displayed in a pop-up, and this will show you the matching text amongst surrounding text.

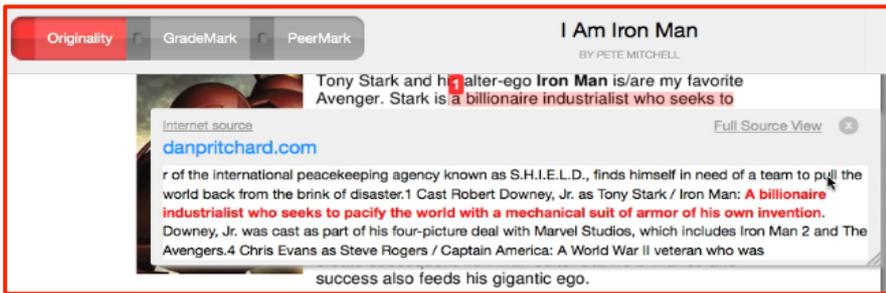


Figure 6 matching text amongst surrounding text

To view additional sources for the matching content, hover over the source listing in the sidebar and click on the circled arrow icon that appears. This will take you to the Match Breakdown view. From the Match Breakdown view, you can see the additional sources that a student may have used.

For Internet matched sources, you can view the original web page by hovering over a match in the side bar and clicking on the circled arrow icon. Click the left arrow to go back to the Match Overview.

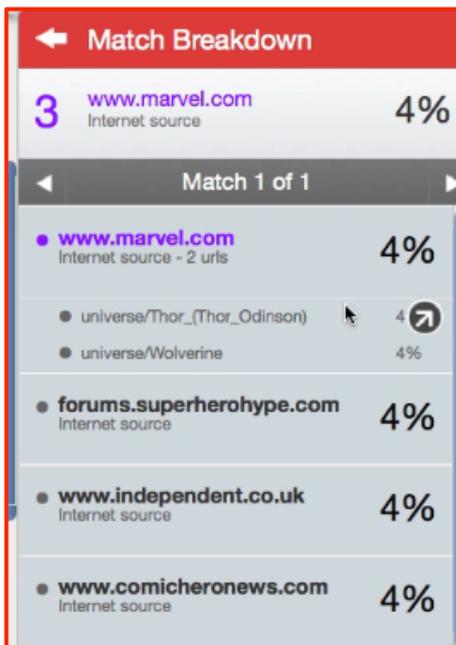


Figure 7 hover over circled arrow to go to Internet source

To view additional paper information, click on the "Paper info" icon in the bottom left of the document viewer. Paper info will reveal the paper info number, when it was submitted, the word count, character count, the number of times the paper was submitted, as well as the breakdown of similarity index by database type.

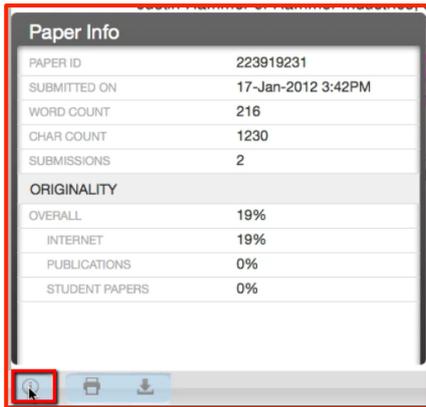


Figure 8 click on paper info to view more information about the paper

To the right of the paper info icon, you will see a print and download button. Click this button to download the originality report as a pdf.

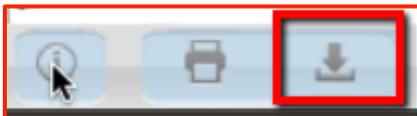


Figure 9 print and download button

INTERPRETING THE ORIGINALITY REPORT FEEDBACK

There is not an ideal similarity percentage for students to attain, however, as a guide, a paper that uses a good quality set of references will result in a range between 20% and 30%. What does this mean?

The similarity percentage is not to be interpreted as an indication of how much a student has plagiarised. It merely identifies similarity and matches to existing works. In fact, so long as a student has accurately referenced text that is matched as similar, a higher similarity percentage does not indicate a student has plagiarised.

A high similarity percentage may indicate that a student has relied heavily on quotes, or has experienced difficulties paraphrasing. Before assuming a student has plagiarised, it is important to consider that the following errors may contribute to a high similarity percentage:



(Image source: Rogerson, 2014)

Upon correcting these issues and resubmitting an assignment, a students' similarity percentage will reduce.

A low similarity percentage may indicate an incomplete submission, missing references, or a lack of quality sources. A percentage of 0% is a concern as it may reflect falsified references or misrepresented sources.

It is possible to filter similarity results to ascertain a student's similarity percentage without including the reference list and/or direct quotes. To do this, select the funnel icon to the bottom right of the document viewer and check the tick box for "Exclude Quotes" and/or "Exclude Bibliography"

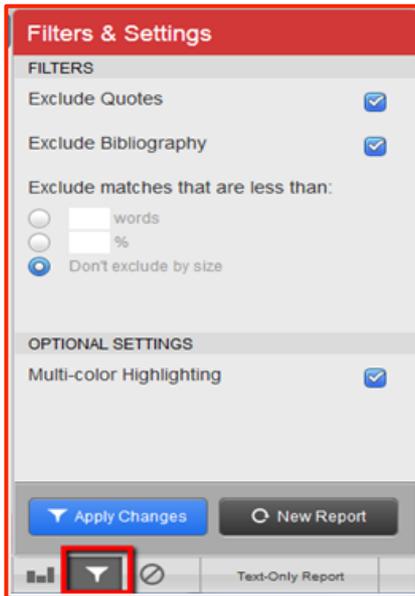


Figure 10 filters and settings

ENABLING RESUBMISSIONS

In your assignment settings under the Originality Report Options select *Generate reports immediately and allow resubmissions until the due date*.



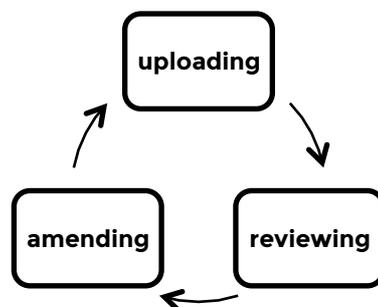
Figure 11 Report Generation Speed

Also make sure that your settings enable students to view their originality report:



Figure 12 setting to enable viewing of originality report.

This setting is recommended as it allows students to upload their work multiple times to Turnitin and immediately receive feedback from the originality report prior to the assignment due date. By enabling this, students can make necessary changes to their work based on the feedback from the originality report, and improve their work prior to submission. This encourages students to take responsibility for correcting any issues regarding the format and quality of their references before their work is graded. Consequently, when grading a student's paper, you can focus on offering feedback regarding content.



(Image source: Rogerson, 2014)

Make sure to notify students that they can resubmit their work to Turnitin, but that upon doing so *it takes approximately 24 hours for Turnitin to generate an originality report.*



Acknowledgements

Rogerson, A 2014, 'Turnitin Overview' PowerPoint presentation, University of Wollongong, viewed 27 October 2014.