Understanding your Originality Report

Introducing the Originality Report

The Originality Report indicates the amount of matched text that Turnitin has found in your assignment. It will also indicate the sources of any matched text found. Your Lecturer may allow you to view your Originality Report. If you’re not sure whether you should be able to see your Originality Report, please check the assessment guide for that module or contact the module convenor.

Navigating the Originality Report

1. In the top left you should see the Originality highlighted in red. If it is not, or if another feature is highlighted, click on Originality to activate the Originality Report.

2. At the top right of the page you will see an overall percentage of matching text that Turnitin has found. This does not mean that the paper has been plagiarised; Turnitin reports any text that it has found somewhere else.

3. In the bottom left of the screen there are three icons. The right hand icon information icon will show you the Paper Info including your paper ID, date submitted and word count. It also shows you a breakdown of your Originality Report by type of source. Clicking on the middle Print icon will display print options and the right hand icon allows you to download your paper.
4. The main section on the left displays your paper with text that Turnitin has found to be matching highlighted in different colours and identified by a number which refers to the source displayed in the **Match Overview** panel on the right. Clicking on a highlight on your paper will open a popup box with the text in the context of the source that Turnitin has found.

5. The **Match Overview** shows the top or best matches. Clicking on a match in the **Match Overview** panel will take you to the **Match Breakdown** which shows you all of the sources that Turnitin has found for the matched text. You can scroll through all of the matches for that source by clicking on the arrows. Click on the white arrow at the top to return to the **Match Overview**.

6. At the top of the **Match Overview** panel, click on the right hand icon to view **All Sources** to see every source found that matches to your paper.

7. The **filter** icon at the bottom of the **Match Overview** panel will display options to allow you to exclude quotes, bibliography or small matches.

**Understanding the percentages**

The originality report does not identify plagiarism: it identifies matching text. It may identify common phrases such as “on the one hand” or the assignment title and it does not separate correctly cited sources from other matching text.

- A low percentage indicates a low incidence of matching text. A low percentage may indicate:
  - Low use of direct quotes. Good academic writing does not rely on the use of direct quotes.
  - Use of paraphrased or summarised text. Make sure that all the sources you have used, including ideas, have been acknowledged accurately.

- A high percentage of matching text may indicate:
  - Relying too much on direct quotation resulting on poor academic writing.
  - Cut and paste from sources.

A 100% match may indicate the accidental resubmission of work, resubmitting an assignment when this has not been allowed by your tutor, or your assignment has been submitted to Turnitin previously.

**What percentage matters?**

The percentage of original writing will vary depending on the type of writing and the subject area involved. It is important to use your own academic judgement in each individual piece of work. In order to avoid any possibility of plagiarism, ensure that you write the original work for each assignment you submit. Ask yourself:

- Have I written an original piece of work?
- Have I clearly acknowledged all of my sources?
- Are my sources in my reference list?
- Has any work in this assignment already been submitted to Turnitin?
What do I do with matching text?

The possible sources of matching text must be carefully examined to determine whether you have correctly cited the source or whether the matching text is likely to be plagiarism or merely commonly used words. Although exact quotes can be excluded from searches, it is recommended that quotations be included initially as this will give a more accurate percentage of original work. It is also a valuable aid when checking your in-text references or citations.

Check that your citations all appear in your reference list, and ensure that all your sources are clearly acknowledged. Examples of course material which must be referenced include but are not limited to:

- Exact words (written or spoken).
- Summarised or paraphrased text.
- Data.
- Images (graph, tables, video, multimedia etc).
- Illustrations.
- Concepts.
- Theories.
- Opinion or analysis.
- Music or other performance media.
- Computer code.
- Designs, drawings or plans.

Check which referencing style is used by your School (ask your tutor) and thoroughly check your work. Pay attention to the exact format shown in the referencing style guide, including the use of italics, commas and abbreviations.

Frequently Asked Questions

**Can I object to my working being stored in the system?**

If a copy was legitimately made of your assignment for submission to Turnitin, then you do not have a right to object to the work being stored on copyright grounds. If your objection is to personal data continuing to be stored on the system, you can submit a notice under Section 10 of the Data Protection Act 1998 if processing of your data would be likely to cause substantial damage or distress. If you have any concerns please talk to your tutor. (Legal guidance courtesy of JISC Legal).

**What happens if I am wrongly accused of plagiarism?**

It should be noted that Turnitin service does not decide whether plagiarism has taken place or not. The service will highlight text which is the same as or similar to other sources, but the decision as to whether plagiarism has taken place will be made by your tutor or another appropriate person at the university. In the first instance you should consult your tutor or the Student Advice Centre at the Kent Union.

**Where can I get more advice about referencing and citation?**

Go to the Academic Integrity website at [http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/ai](http://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/ai) or the Student Learning Advisory Service.

**I can't see the Originality Report. What can I do?**

If your tutor has enabled you to see the Originality Report and if this is first time you have submitted that assignment to Turnitin, the report will be available soon after you have submitted. If you resubmit work, the subsequent originality reports are delayed by 24 hours. If you still can't see your Originality Report contact your tutor.

**I submitted my work because I thought that I would be able to check my assignment before submitting the final draft. Now I find out that only one submission is allowed. What can I do?**

You need to speak to your tutor immediately. They can delete the existing submission or allow resubmission.