

Interpreting Turnitin Originality Reports (Student Guide)

This guide explains how to view and interpret Turnitin Originality Reports for work submitted via a Turnitin Assignment activity on Moodle where Academic Staff have allowed students to view their own Reports. In most cases you will only have access to view 'draft' assignment submissions, if in doubt please speak to your **lecturing** staff.

What is an Originality Report?

An Originality Report is generated for each piece of student work submitted to a Turnitin Assignment activity. Turnitin matches text within the submitted work against a database of previously submitted work, websites and other sources. The Originality Report indicates similarities within the work submitted and highlights the matching text and provides a summary. Originality Reports are usually available within 5 minutes after the due date but may take up to 24 hours for larger pieces of work and during peak submission times.

The Originality Report is **NOT** a plagiarism report; Turnitin highlights text found within an assignment which is also found elsewhere. The decision to deem any work plagiarised is made after careful examination of both the submitted paper and the sources.

Turnitin does not always identify the original source of information, therefore you may have provided a valid reference but Turnitin will match it to a different source, sometime due to Turnitin not having access to the original in the database.

To View your assignment Originality Report follow these steps:

1. Click on the **Assignment** title on the Moodle module/course homepage
2. The next screen will show information in relation to your submitted assignment – use the key below the image to find out more about what you can do on this page

Part 1				
Title	Start Date	Due Date	Post Date	Marks Available
Example Turnitin Assignment Submission (Part 1)	30 Jul 2014 - 09:14	6 Aug 2014 - 09:14	6 Aug 2014 - 09:14	100
Student	Submission Title	Paper ID ¹	Submitted ²	Similarity ²
student, student	Demo Tii Upload	34825481	30/07/14, 09:36	5% ³
				Grade ⁴
				–/100

(1) This is the internal Turnitin Paper ID

(2) This shows the actual percentage of text matched and colour coding - it is also **the link to view the individual report**

Blue	no matching text
Green	1 word – 24% matching text
Yellow	25-49% matching text
Orange	50-74% matching text
Red	75-100% matching text

(3) The Grade column allows you to view comments and Grade information is used by your tutors

(4) This is a link to download the original document

My Originality Report has matches!

Don't Panic! If Turnitin has matched text within your assignment it just means some of your text is unoriginal. This unoriginal text will hopefully consist of quoted text or common language. Matched text doesn't mean you have plagiarised, tutors will look at the report in detail and consider if your writing is fairly attributed and referenced before any judgments are made.

What percentage is considered acceptable?

All assignments will probably contain some text that has been matched to other sources. A similarity index of just 3% could consist of lots of minor insignificant matches to key terminology and common phrases. Alternatively 3% match within a 10,000 word dissertation which equates to a block of 300 words and does not contain any reference could be deemed plagiarised.

What to look for in an Originality Report:

Quotation and Referencing

If the matching source is meant to be quoted ensure it is enclosed in quotation marks and correctly referenced (following guidelines set by your tutors).

Paraphrasing

The highlighted text may be poorly paraphrased, you may need to rewrite it further in your own words and cite the source

Common words and phrases

Terminology and common words that are used may be matched by Turnitin, this is normal so don't worry.

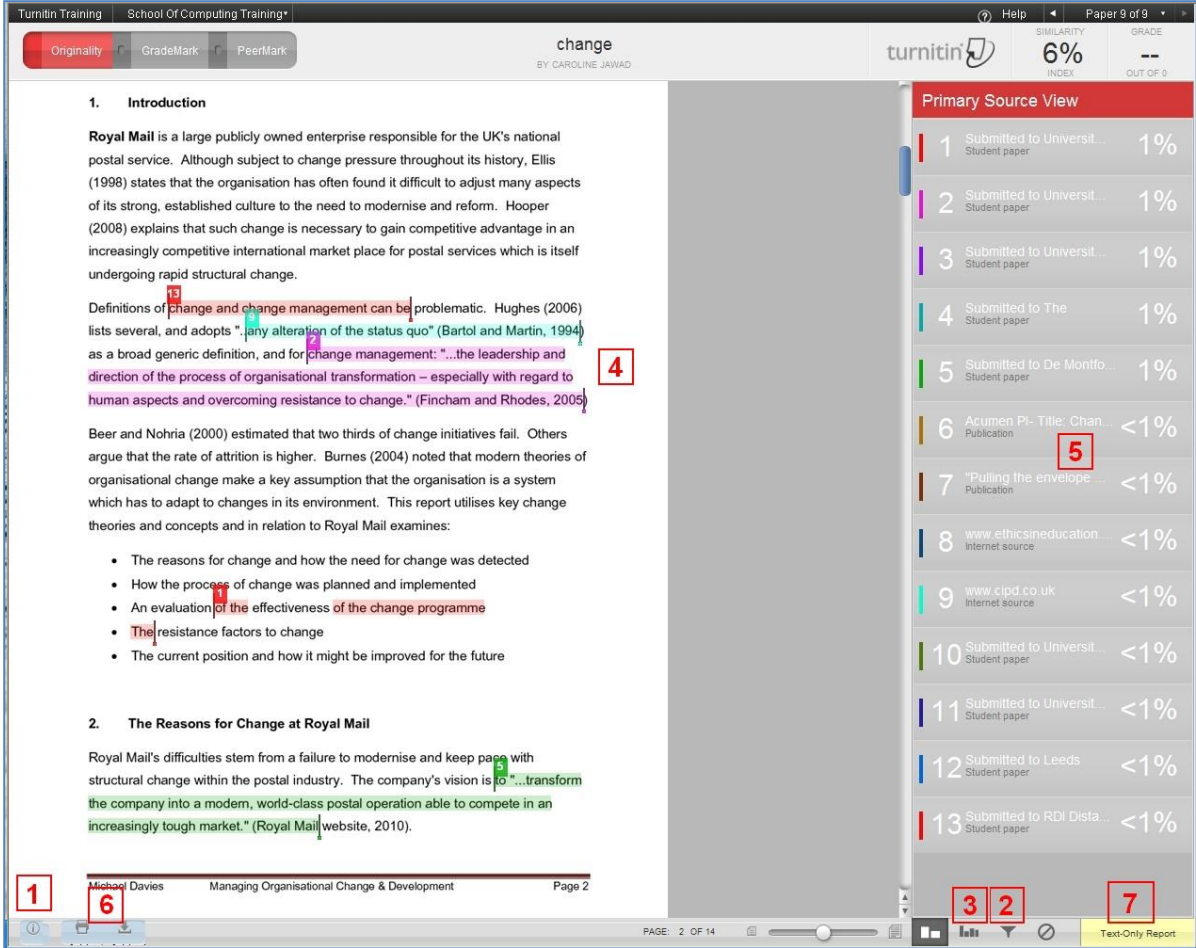
Reuse of work

Work previously submitted to Turnitin will be added to the Turnitin database and will be matched in later submitted work. The Originality Report will inform you to which institute the match originates, only tutors have the ability to request access to papers submitted to institutions. If you use text from work you previously submitted you must reference it correctly.

Above all ensure all of your sources are clearly acknowledged using the referencing style expected by your tutors and make sure all your citations are in your reference list. If you are unsure of any matches seek clarification from your tutor.

Viewing Originality Reports

To view a report click on the link, percentage or colour, in the similarity column **(2)** above) - this will bring up an originality report (in a new page). The example below has the key features numbered on the screenshot and details below:



The screenshot displays a Turnitin Originality Report for a document titled "change" by Caroline Jawad. The report shows a similarity index of 6%. The document content is on the left, and the source list is on the right. Numbered callouts (1-7) highlight specific features:

- (1)** Document title: "change"
- (2)** Similarity percentage: 6%
- (3)** Document title in source list: "change"
- (4)** Highlighted text in document: "Definitions of change and change management can be problematic. Hughes (2006) lists several, and adopts 'any alteration of the status quo' (Bartol and Martin, 1994) as a broad generic definition, and for change management: '...the leadership and direction of the process of organisational transformation – especially with regard to human aspects and overcoming resistance to change.' (Fincham and Rhodes, 2005)"
- (5)** Source list entry: "Submitted to Universit... Student paper"
- (6)** Document title in footer: "change"
- (7)** Text-only report button

(1) This gives you general information about the paper

(2) You can click this to exclude quoted work however this currently only works if the passage is contained in double inverted commas. You can also exclude bibliographies though this can be hit and miss according to how the document has been formatted

(3) This allows you to select how the matches in the second column **(5)** are grouped

(4) This column shows the assignment with the detected text highlighted - to the right is the number which references to the source column **(5)** Clicking on the coloured text in the assignment will show the quote in context, or you can click on the link in column **(5)** to go to the complete source (e.g. web page)

(5) This is the column that shows the sources. To the right of each item there is a small grey box with a cross which allows you to exclude links where appropriate - the screen should refresh reflecting the change. You can still see excluded items by choosing to view all individual items using the selector (3)

(6) Buttons to print and save the report

(7) Text-Only Report will show you the Originality Report in an accessible format.

Excluding sources

If the assignment contains valid matches and you wish to exclude these from the Originality Report you can do so and this will recalculate the Similarity index and other Originality information.

Click on **All Sources** icon at the top of the right hand column



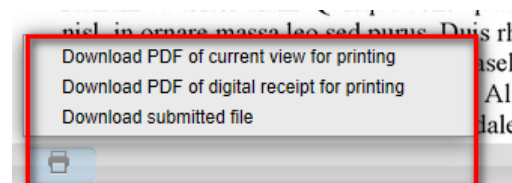
Click **Exclude Sources** at the bottom of the right hand column, and then select the sources you wish to exclude. When you have made your selection/s click **Exclude(x)**. Once the sources have been removed the similarity index percentage will be recalculated to generate a new originality report.

If you wish to restore any excluded sources click the View/edit excluded sources icon, make any necessary changes and click **Restore** or **Restore All**



Printing / Downloading Originality Reports

Clicking on the printer icon will present 3 options:



Download PDF of current view for printing: Will create a PDF version of the Originality Report, it is not interactive but will contain all the information available providing all highlighted sources and a summary of the primary matching sources. Please note it can take a while for Turnitin to generate the PDF especially with large assignments.

Download PDF of digital receipt for printing: This option creates a PDF version of the Digital Receipt showing submission information (date and time of submission, submission ID).

Download submitted file: Download a copy of the original submitted file.

Help

- For help with using Turnitin
- To check if you have been given access to your Originality Report
- If you have any queries or concerns

Contact your **Tutor**

If you are receiving error messages, or require technical support please contact your campus **helpdesk**