



How to work with Turnitin reports

Turnitin is a tool that checks how similar parts of your assignments are in comparison to other people's work. Turnitin checks your work against websites, work submitted by other students, and other repositories to bring to your attention parts of your assignment that require better paraphrasing. By using the Turnitin report in good time before deadline, you can avoid committing plagiarism.

When should you submit your work to Turnitin?

It's recommended that you submit your work to Turnitin once you have a complete draft of your assignment (or a part of your assignment). Submitting well before your deadline will give you time to make any changes to your work, if your report indicates problem areas.

You can submit to Turnitin as many times as you need. Just keep in mind that after the third submission, the report may be delayed by up to 24 hours.

How can you access your Turnitin report on iLearn?

When you submit your work via an assessment's submission link on the module's 'Assessments' tab, your work is automatically submitted to Turnitin. For the first three times you submit an assessment, the report should take approximately 15 minutes to become available. To access your report, click on the indicated percentage that appears. This will open up the report.

How does your Turnitin report indicate poor paraphrasing or plagiarism?

When you open your Turnitin report, you will see parts of your work highlighted in different colours. This is how Turnitin shows you which parts of your answers are very similar to others' work.

Consider this example report:

Turnitin Demonstration

What is Turnitin?

Turnitin is a popular plagiarism detecting system that many universities make available for students to use. When you submit your work on Turnitin, a report automatically generates flagging how similar your assignment is to other sources of information available on the internet. It produces:

- a **similarity index**: a percentage (%) showing how similar the assignment is to other sources on the internet.
- an **originality report**: sentences and paragraphs which are similar to other sources are underlined in red, and you can see exactly what source the passage is similar to.

What is Turnitin for?

Turnitin is a useful tool for students to make sure that they're not accidentally plagiarising. Dahl's (2007) research suggests that most plagiarism is accidental: students forget to reference, or don't realise that they need to reference similar passages. Students can use Turnitin to ensure that the passages flagged as similar to other sources are correctly referenced.

As the Australian National University (2023) states, "The primary purpose of using Turnitin is to provide students with an interactive means of understanding and applying citation and referencing techniques in their work". Students can use the report to identify where they need to add references. As such, "You can use Turnitin to ensure accidental plagiarism does not occur. It can also help you develop your referencing skills and techniques." (Northumbria University, 2023)

Lecturers can also use Turnitin to check that students are submitting their own work. Lecturers see the same report that students see when they submit their work. Lecturers can then check that sentences or paragraphs that have been flagged as similar have been referenced correctly.

How does Turnitin work?

A Turnitin assignment is set up by a lecturer, either through a university's online learning environment or directly on Turnitin's own website (www.turnitinuk.com). Students then access this assignment online and upload their work before the due date. Turnitin will then analyse the submitted work to identify text matches with other sources, usually completing this task within a few minutes. Staff can also view the work that has been submitted and there is also an option to mark the work online and include grades and comments which can be returned to the student once all papers have been marked.

References

Australian National University, (2023). *Turnitin Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Students* [online]. Canberra: ANU. Available from: <https://services.anu.edu.au/information-technology/software-systems/turnitin/turnitin-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-for-0> [Accessed 29th March 2023]

Dahl, S., (2007). *Turnitin, The student perspective on using plagiarism detection software. Active learning in higher education* [online], 8(2), 173-191.

Northumbria University, (2023). *Turnitin Online Marking and Feedback* [online]. Newcastle: Northumbria University. Available from: <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/university-services/it-services/student-digital-induction/turnitin/> [Accessed 29th March 2023]

Turnitin Demonstration.docx

ORIGINALITY REPORT

	48%	48%	0%	41%
	SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS
PRIMARY SOURCES				
1	Submitted to The University of the South Pacific	Student Paper		23%
2	Submitted to Kern High School District	Student Paper		6%
3	www.theinternetarticleguy.com	Internet Source		5%
4	www.northumbria.ac.uk	Internet Source		5%
5	core.ac.uk	Internet Source		4%
6	Submitted to University of Northumbria at Newcastle	Student Paper		3%
7	www.learninginstitute.qmul.ac.uk	Internet Source		2%

1. Turnitin indicates a similarity score as a percentage. There is no 'ideal' percentage to aim for. It also provides the original sources that it has matched to parts of the assignment.
2. Turnitin has highlighted this text because it is poorly paraphrased. It seems the student has used synonyms at intervals, but the structure of the sentence remains very similar to the original. The student should re-work this sentence.
3. Turnitin has highlighted quoted information. If you have used quotation marks to indicate quoted materials, and given the correct citation, then you can ignore quotes highlighted by Turnitin.
4. Turnitin has highlighted an entire paragraph of writing. This indicates that this paragraph was copied and pasted from a source. The

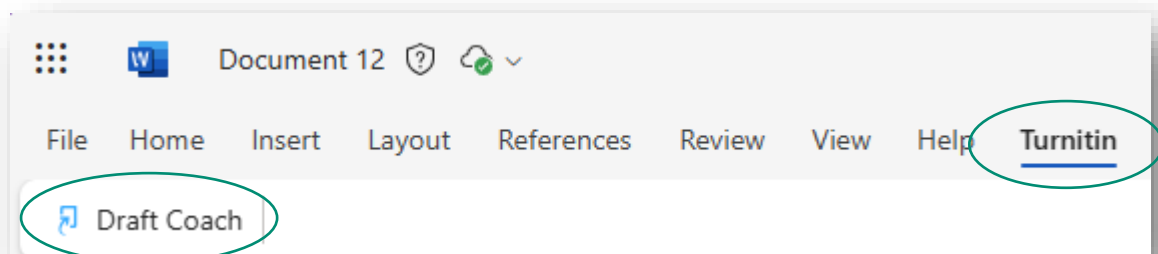
student should paraphrase this paragraph and provide a citation to the original source.

5. Turnitin has highlighted the reference list. This is likely because other students have used the same sources in their assignment. If you have used these sources and created the reference list yourself, you can ignore what is highlighted by Turnitin.

Is there another way to check my similarity?

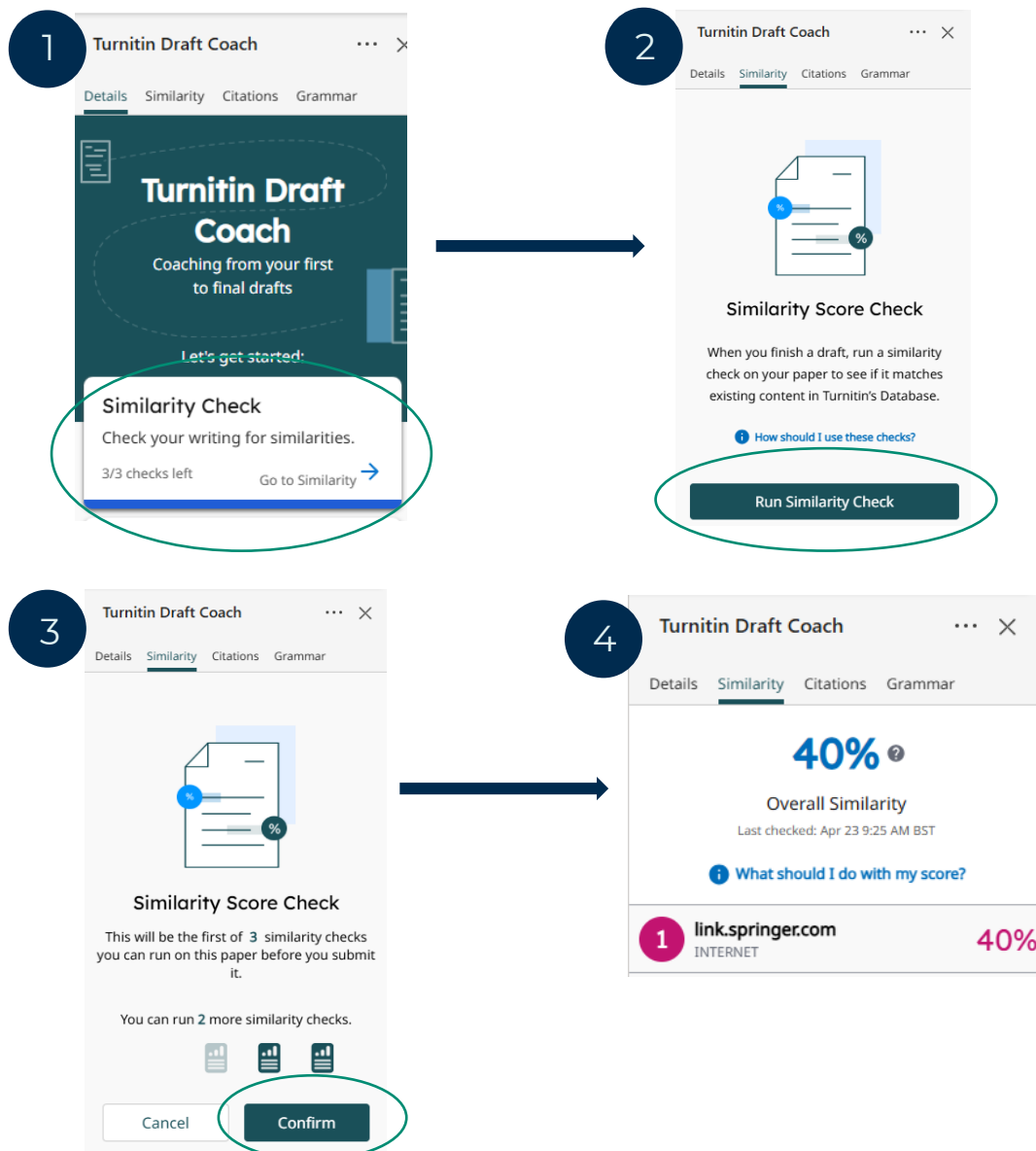
Submitting to Turnitin via your module assessment link on iLearn is considered the most accurate way of checking similarity; the report you see will also be the same as the one your marker sees. However, some students like to check their similarity as they work to rectify any paraphrasing issues as they arise.

A more flexible and user-friendly way of doing this is to use Turnitin Draft Coach, which is available to all Arden students on the online version of MS Word, accessed through your Office 365 account.



Turnitin Draft Coach works in a very similar way to Turnitin on iLearn, only it lets you check similarity in your assignment as you work. For each MS Word document, you can check your similarity three times.

When you click on 'Draft Coach,' a window will open on the right-hand side of your document. You can select 'Similarity Check' and then 'Run Similarity Check.' You'll be asked to confirm the similarity check. The process takes about 30 seconds to check your work for similarity and the small report you will see will work the same as Turnitin on iLearn, but you will not need to download the report to read it.



You can use the feedback from the similarity check to improve your paraphrasing as you work on your draft.

Where can I get help with Turnitin?

If you need help accessing or understanding your Turnitin report, you can get in touch with the Academic Skills Team (AcademicSkills@arden.ac.uk). You can also book a one-to-one appointment with an Academic Skills Tutor via the Learning Success Hub website (<https://learningsuccess.arden.ac.uk/>).