How to view your Similarity Report in Turnitin

When is an Similarity Report produced?

If your tutor has enabled you to see the Similarity Report then you can access this either before the online submission Due Date or after the due date has past, depending on the setting chosen by your tutor.

An Similarity Report is generated when you submit your work. While it only usually takes a few minutes to generate the Similarity Report after you have submitted your work, it can take longer at busy periods.

It is important to note that if you are allowed to re-submit your work to the same submission point then the generation of subsequent Similarity Reports can be delayed by 24 hours.

How to find and view the Similarity Report.

Go to the area where you submitted your work and open the assignment link by clicking View/Complete.

Click on the percentage score under Similarity to open the full report in the Feedback Studio.

NOTE: If you see Not Available under Similarity, this means that you won’t be able to see your similarity report, (it may become available after the assignment Due Date) or an similarity report is not being produced for this assignment. Talk to your tutor if you are unsure.
Navigating the Similarity Report in the Feedback Studio

The Document Viewer was upgraded to the Feedback Studio on August 1st, 2017. It may look a bit different, but it has all the same tools.

Click on the number (percentage) to open the Match Overview.

The Similarity Index shows the total percentage of matched text as a proportion of the assignment.

The Matched text is numbered and highlighted in different colours to help you to understand the matches.

The Filter tool can be used to exclude bibliographic materials, quotes or small matches.

If you want to see if your similarity score was due to your writing, or your rather extensive Bibliography, the filter tool can assist you.
The Similarity Index percentage.

An overall percentage match is shown as the Similarity Index in the top right of the document viewer. This is the total amount of text matched to other sources as a proportion of the assignment.

**Does the percentage match indicate plagiarism?**

No, don’t worry! The percentage match doesn’t always indicate plagiarism. It only identifies the amount of matched text in your assignment and should only be used as a guide. It is up to you to evaluate if the matches are correctly referenced.

**Does the overall percentage matter?**

There is no ideal percentage. Your work is bound to contain words from other sources. The percentage will vary depending on the type and length of assignment and the requirements of the work involved.

As you’ll see, the report will show matches that you can safely ignore and also ones you may need to check.

**Types of matching text.**

There are certain types of acceptable matched text that it is normal to find and your tutor will ignore. These include:

- **Quotations**: Properly referenced quotations can be ignored. These can be excluded using the filter.
- **References and Bibliography**: Other students will have used the same references at some point and these will show up.
- **Matching formats** such as the same essay title.
- **Tables and Charts** showing shared or copied data or statistics.
- **Appendices** may also have a large amount of matching text as other students may well have used the same sources.
- **Small matches** that form common phrases in a sentence or subject terminology will be detected. These can be removed using the small match filter.
- **Paraphrasing** text from a source will be highlighted even where words in the phrase have been changed. Your tutor will judge if the text has been suitably paraphrased. Talk to your tutor if you need advice.
Matches to another students work.

If the report shows that what you’ve written matches text submitted by another student, it will show the date of submission and the University it is from. It won’t show their text. If this isn’t one of the acceptable matches already mentioned it could indicate collusion where two or more students have copied each other’s work.

Or it may also indicate that you have simply included text from the same written source, perhaps a textbook. The Turnitin database doesn’t contain a comprehensive list of print books, and this is the most common reason for these types. If you have properly referenced your source as a quotation then this can be ignored.

What if I have a large number of matches or a high percentage?

This can often indicate an over reliance on direct quotations and paraphrased text or text has been copied and pasted directly from the Internet.

Make sure matches are converted into properly referenced quotations or if appropriate, re-write them into well-written and referenced paraphrases. You might also want to remove some of the matched text and use your own words instead.

Think about using referencing software like Endnote to keep track of and recall all of your original sources.

A 100% match means your assignment has previously been submitted to Turnitin. This can happen if you are re-submitting work and you have already submitted the assignment to the Turnitin database. Your tutor will recognise this is the case.

What if I don’t have many matches?

If you don’t have any matches or a low percentage it could mean that the report is already excluding quotations and the Bibliography.

But it could also mean that:

There is little or no use of direct quotes and depending on the nature of the assignment this is not necessarily an issue.

Text has been appropriately paraphrased or summarised from your sources. Ensure that all of them have been properly referenced.
View the source of a match.

The Match Overview sidebar shows a list of the individual matches, with a suggested most likely source and a separate percentage score for each of these, as a proportion of the assignment’s total text.

Go to matches on the assignment.

Click on one of the matches in the Match Overview sidebar to jump to the highlighted text in the assignment.

Show an individual match and possible sources.