

Turnitin (via Blackboard)

Student Guide

The Centre for Teaching & Learning



Turnitin is an effective tool that you can use to improve your academic writing skills. Often you are encouraged to refer to other people's ideas in your essays and reports and attribute (or reference) them appropriately, while studying at University.

Sometimes, through lack of referencing skills, a student may inadvertently use another person's work and/or not reference the work properly. In some cases, this may be referred to as "plagiarism". Turnitin is a program designed to assist in detecting these errors, and can allow you to revise your work before final submission for assessment. The program can assist your referencing skills development using the 'Turnitin Originality Report'.

Turnitin is not the only solution to developing referencing skills. A lot of practice, asking for advice from your lecturer/tutor; referring to your course manual; working through the InfoSkills modules (<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/library/tutorials/infoskills>); or attending sessions through the Learning Support Program (www.newcastle.edu.au/unit/ctl/lsp) - are all avenues to help you develop your academic writing skills.

Further information and support is available from the University's Blackboard and Turnitin web site for students: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/blackboard/student/index.html>

Using Turnitin via Blackboard

Use this guide if your lecturer has requested you to submit your assignments into Turnitin via Blackboard. If you are not sure please check with your lecturer before attempting to submit your assignments.

Where do I find Turnitin assignments in my Blackboard course?

Most Turnitin assignment submission areas in Blackboard will be available from the Assignments link in your Blackboard course menu. Your lecturer can advise if they have made the Turnitin Assignment areas available elsewhere.

How do I know what a Turnitin assignment looks like?

All Turnitin assignments in Blackboard can be identified by the Turnitin assignment logo.

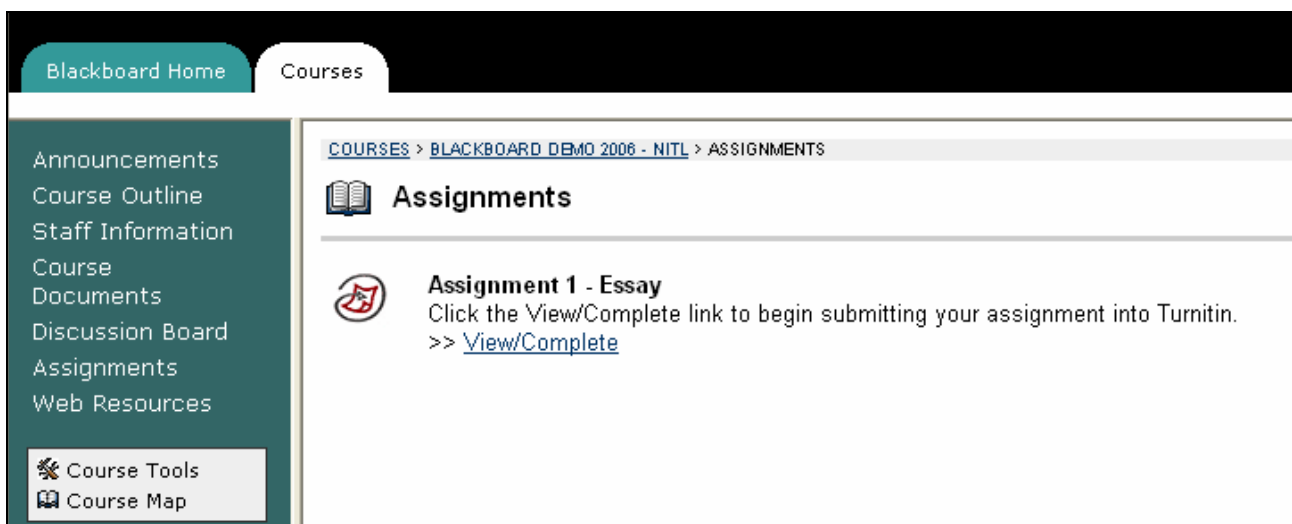


FIGURE 1: EXAMPLE OF A TURNITIN ASSIGNMENT IN BLACKBOARD

Submit a Turnitin assignment into Blackboard

To submit your assignment/work you will need to login to Blackboard and then:

1. Click Assignments (or other link as directed by your lecturer)
2. Turnitin Assignments for this course will display on the screen
3. Click the View/Complete link under the relevant assignment. You will see the Turnitin assignment area display.

#	assignment	submit	title	submitted	contents
13	Assignment 1 - Essay 03-10-06 03-17-06				

FIGURE 2: TURNITIN ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

4. Click the Submit icon to begin submitting your assignment.
5. Select 'file upload' from the drop down menu (e.g. submit a paper by file upload)
5. Enter a title for your file, e.g. assignment 1
6. Click 'browse' to locate and attach the required file to be uploaded, click submit
7. The content of the file you are submitting will display on the screen. You will be prompted to confirm that the text displayed on the screen is the text you wish to submit
8. Click 'yes, submit' to complete the submission
9. A digital receipt will then be displayed, providing you with an ID number for your submission

Revision Assignments

Revision assignments are additional areas set-up by your lecturer (and linked to the main assignment) where you are able to re-submit further drafts of your assignment. Each assignment and revision area usually allow one submission only and generates one corresponding report. Use of the over-write feature for multiple submissions and corresponding report generation is the exception.


Overwrite – multiple submissions and reports

As an alternative to setting-up revision assignments (to allow further draft submissions) your lecturer may choose to use the 'overwrite' feature. This feature negated the need to additional revision areas by allowing multiple submission into the one assignment area. In this case each new submission overwrites and erases the previous submission. Only the last submission will be available for viewing along with its corresponding originality report. Reports generated using this feature are not available within a few minutes as with the all other reports. In this case, reports will be available 24 hours after submission.

About the originality report

Usually you are able to view the 'originality report' a few minutes after submission. Alternatively, if your lecturer is using the 'overwrite' feature for the generation of the originality reports, the report will not be available until 24 hours after you have submitted your file. In this case the report icon will appear 'greyed out' until the time period has elapsed, after which time the report will appear.

The report will appear as a coloured icon next to the assignment within your class. You may need to refresh the screen to view the report icon.

#	assignment	submit	title	submitted	contents
4	New Turnitin Assignment 02-06-06 07-13-06	↑	New Assignment 2	03-01-06	--  .doc

Click on the report icon to view the report.

Originality Report

The report is divided into three sections which includes, submission information, similarity index, percentage matches for text that matches other sources, and also the original submission with the matching text highlighted.

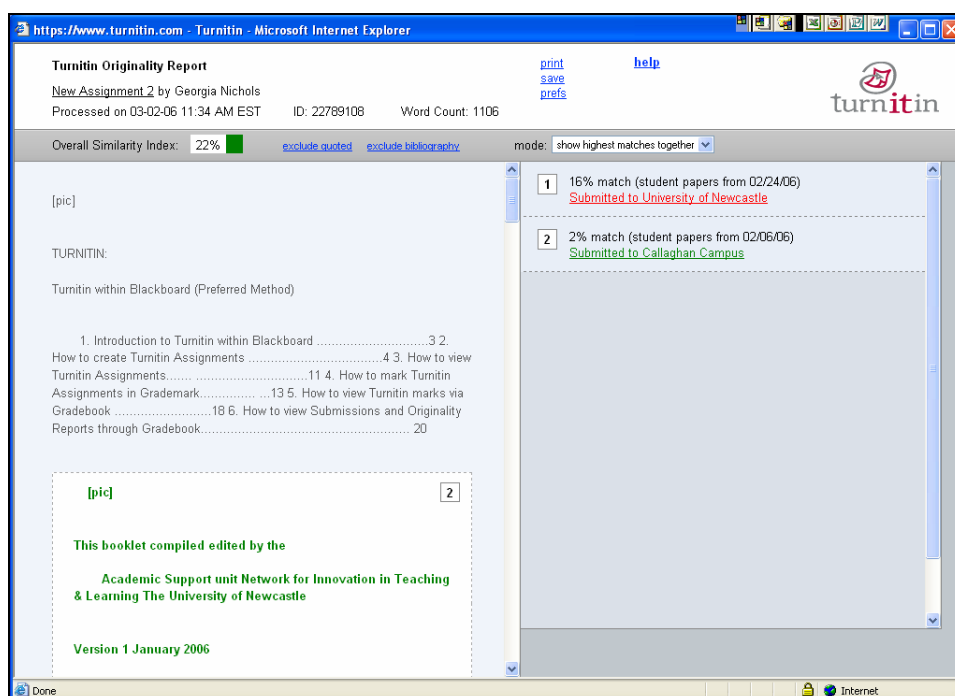
Turnitin Originality Report		
New Assignment 2 by Georgia Nichols		
Processed on 03-02-06 11:34 AM EST	ID: 22789108	Word Count: 1106
Overall Similarity Index: 22%	exclude quoted	exclude bibliography

If your originality report returns a low Overall Similarity Index, it may be that your reference list doesn't have any matching text, and you may have a problem. It would be very unusual for you to have a completely unique list of references on a topic.

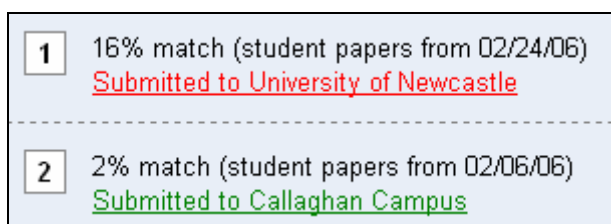
If you exclude your bibliography and it doesn't reduce the percentage of your matching text, then you have a problem with the way you have formatted your bibliography.

If you exclude quotes and they don't exclude, then check there are quotation marks before and after the quote.

It is relatively easy for a lecturer to detect plagiphrasing. Plagiphrasing is sometimes called "word switch plagiarism". If you take a sentence from a source and switch around a few words and add a few of your own it is still plagiarising. You need to either put the source sentence in quotation marks (if the quote contributes in a special way to your argument). Otherwise, put the idea in your OWN words and place an in-text citation near your expression of the idea e.g. Smith (1999, p.22) contends that graduates attending at least two social activities per term have better grades in their final exams.



The originality report will show the submitted assignment, and the related matching text links side by side. You can view matching text by clicking on the number next to the specific text match. The percentage of text matching from the source will show. A link to the original website or submission will be displayed. You can click on the link to view the original source.



Note : Further interpretation of an originality report can be provided by your lecturer.

In person

Support is available from staff at the Information Desk in the University Libraries if you are on campus.

Telephone

IT Helpdesk can be contacted on +61 2 4921 7000 to report technical difficulties.

Email

Email support is also available to answer any questions or to provide assistance. Email to 17000@newcastle.edu.au

Websites

Turnitin support web site for University of Newcastle Students

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/turnitin/students/guides.html>

InfoSkills – self-paced training modules dealing with information literacy and academic integrity

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html>