

How to Use Turnitin in D2L

Updated: August 4, 2021

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What is Turnitin Originality Checker?

Turnitin Originality Checker is an integrated tool in Brightspace/D2L used to detect possible plagiarism in student assignments, based on textual similarities with other resources on the web and in the Turnitin database. It generates a percentage “originality” score for assignments based on their similarity with other web resources. It also supplies instructors with a line-by-line Similarity Report, which links directly to flagged resources for comparison against student submissions.

Limitations of Turnitin

Turnitin works best for detecting direct, word-for-word copying of plagiarized texts in student assignments. It may or may not detect inappropriate paraphrasing or so-called “mosaic plagiarism,” in which students take ideas or concepts that are not their own, but merely change the wording of a text.

Turnitin does sometimes produce false flags. Just because a student has a low originality score does not mean their essay was plagiarized. Students that quote other texts extensively may find portions of their essay flagged by Turnitin, even if they quoted and attributed their sources correctly. Assignments that ask students to draw heavily on a course textbook or other common course materials may also yield many more flags, as the content of the submissions may closely mirror that of the course material. Even

content that most likely falls into the category of “common knowledge” might be incorrectly flagged for merely coincidental similarities with other documents on the web.

At the end of the day, Turnitin is only a helpful tool. On its own, it cannot determine conclusively whether or not a student cheated. It is up to the discretion of the instructor in all cases as to whether flagged portions of a student submission do in fact constitute plagiarism and whether or not students are quoting, paraphrasing, or citing their sources appropriately.

Turnitin as Both Enforcer and Deterrent

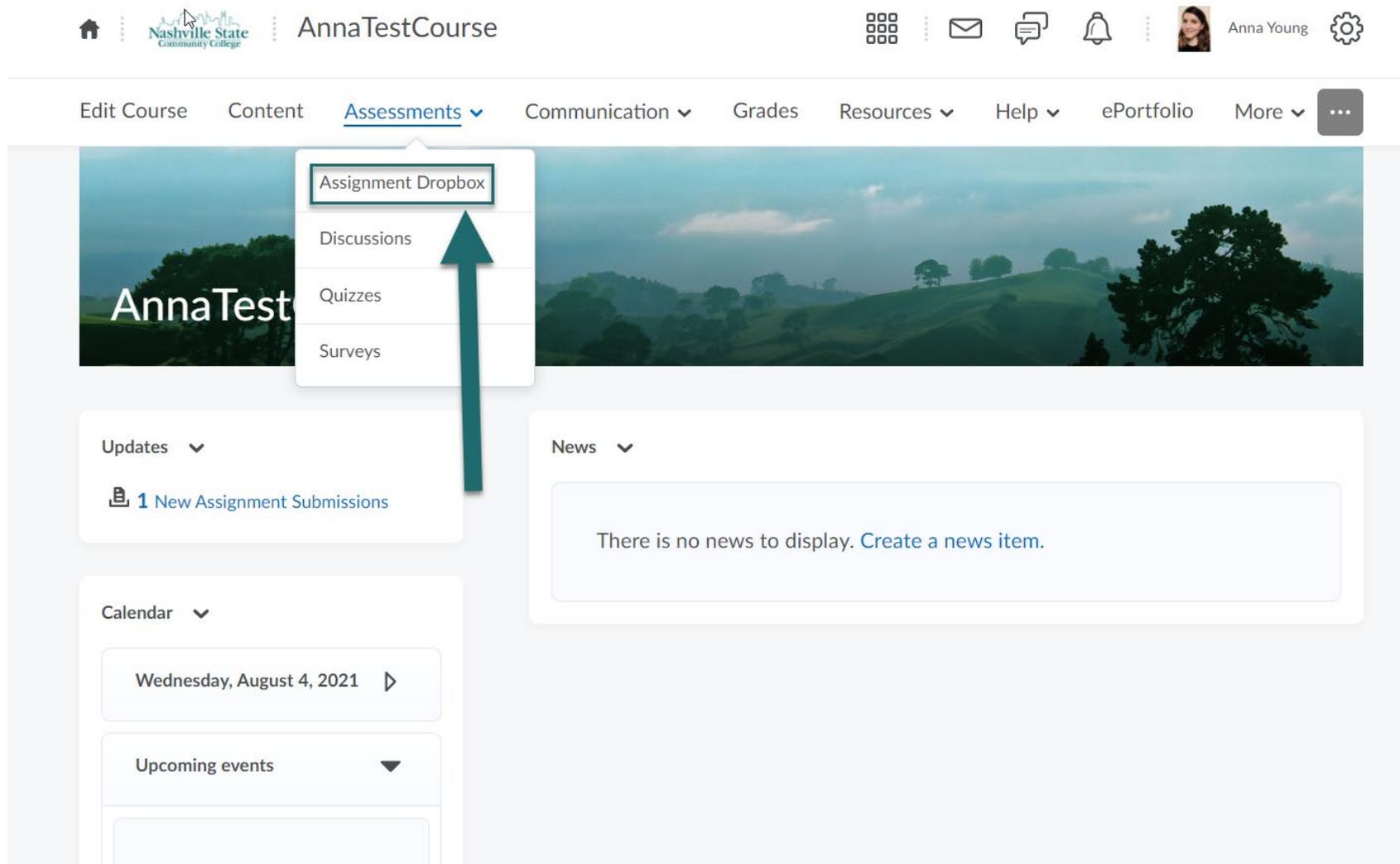
Turnitin is primarily used to check student submissions for plagiarism. It can also, however, be used as a strong deterrent against student cheating, by discouraging students from engaging in this behavior before it becomes a disciplinary issue.

The key to this is detailed instruction and transparency about expectations related to academic dishonesty. Here are some practical steps you can take to deter plagiarism:

1. Link students to the [NSCC Student Policy on Academic Dishonesty](#) and include this information in your syllabus. Warn students of the consequences of plagiarism at NSCC and in your course.
2. Link students to helpful resources that define plagiarism and explain how to avoid it, using correct quotation and citation practice. For instance, the NSCC Library has an excellent [Libguide and tutorials](#) on Avoiding Plagiarism. Particularly if your course emphasizes writing or research skills, consider integrating these tutorials into a graded assessment like a quiz.
3. Tell students that all work will be checked by Turnitin in advance of the due date. Students will also be automatically informed when Turnitin is enabled in a submission folder when they go to turn in their assignment. The knowledge that their work will be automatically scanned for similarities may deter many students from engaging in blatant plagiarism.
4. Consider allowing students to submit multiple drafts to a submission folder to check their Turnitin score, and correct any flagged issues with quotation and citation of sources. In this way, Turnitin becomes not just a policing tool for instructors, but an educational opportunity for students.

How to Activate Turnitin for Assignment Dropbox Submissions

1. From your course Home, select Assessments and then Assignment Dropbox



The screenshot displays a course management interface for 'AnnaTestCourse' at Nashville State Community College. The top navigation bar includes a home icon, the college logo, the course name, and user information for Anna Young. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with options like 'Edit Course', 'Content', 'Assessments', 'Communication', 'Grades', 'Resources', 'Help', 'ePortfolio', and 'More'. The 'Assessments' menu is open, showing options for 'Assignment Dropbox', 'Discussions', 'Quizzes', and 'Surveys'. A teal arrow points to the 'Assignment Dropbox' option. Below the navigation, there are sections for 'Updates' (showing 1 new assignment submission) and 'Calendar' (showing the date Wednesday, August 4, 2021). A 'News' section is also visible, indicating no news to display.

2. Select the Assignment you wish to activate Turnitin for from the list.

Dropbox Folders

 Help

New Folder Edit Categories More Actions **▼**

 Bulk Edit

<input type="checkbox"/>	Folder	New Submissions	Completed	Evaluated	Feedback Published	Due Date
	No Category					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample Assignment ▼		0/1	0/1	0/1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ePortfolio Final Project Submission ▼  		0/1	0/1	0/1	
	ePortfolio Submission  					
<input type="checkbox"/>	ePortfolio Final Project ▼	1	1/1	0/1	0/1	

20 per page **▼**

3. Select "Edit Folder"

The screenshot displays a course management interface for 'AnnaTestCourse' at Nashville State Community College. The user is logged in as Anna Young. The navigation menu includes 'Edit Course', 'Content', 'Assessments', 'Communication', 'Grades', 'Resources', 'Help', 'ePortfolio', and 'More'. The current page is 'Sample Assignment - Folder Submissions'. A toolbar contains buttons for 'Edit Folder', 'Email Users Without Submissions', 'Add Feedback Files', and 'Submission Log'. The 'Edit Folder' button is highlighted with a red box, and a red arrow points to it. Below the toolbar, there are tabs for 'Users' and 'Submissions'. A search bar is present with the text 'Search For...' and a magnifying glass icon, followed by a link to 'Show Search Options'. A message box states 'There are no users for the search'.

4. Navigate to the Turnitin tab.

  AnnaTestCourse

     Anna Young 

Edit Course Content Assessments Communication Grades Resources Help ePortfolio More

Edit Folder - Sample Assignment

Properties Restrictions Objectives **Turnitin®**

Name *
Sample Assignment

Instructions

 Paragraph **B** *I* U  Font Famil Font Size 



Attachments

Add Attachment Record Video

Submission, Completion and Categorization

Assignment Type

Individual assignment

Save and Close Save and New Save Cancel

5. Check the box next to “Enable Grademark for this folder”
6. Check the box next to “Enable Originality Check for this folder”
7. If you want students to see their Turnitin originality scores after they submit this assignment, check the box next to “Allow learners to see Turnitin similarity scores in their dropbox folder.” You may also specify on this screen if you want to automatically sync grades to Brightspace, and whether you want all assignments to automatically be checked for Originality, or only certain flagged assignments.

Navigation: Edit Course | Content | Assessments | Communication | Grades | Resources | Help | ePortfolio | More

Edit Folder - Sample Assignment

Properties | Restrictions | Objectives | **Turnitin®**

Turnitin® Integration

GradeMark®

Evaluation

Enable GradeMark® for this folder
If you would like similarity scores to be generated, ensure you also enable Originality Check® below

Transfer

Automatically sync grades as Draft in Brightspace
 Manually sync grades as Draft in Brightspace

Originality Check®

Enable Originality Check® for this folder

Display

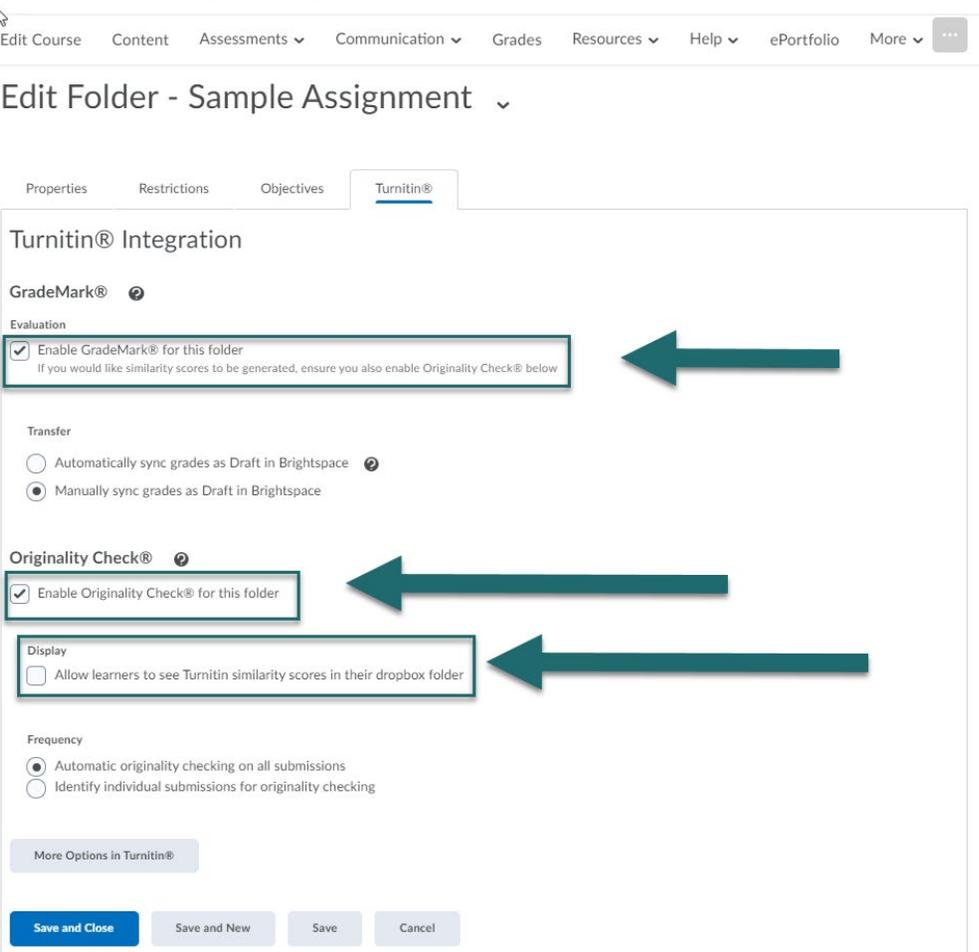
Allow learners to see Turnitin similarity scores in their dropbox folder

Frequency

Automatic originality checking on all submissions
 Identify individual submissions for originality checking

More Options in Turnitin®

Save and Close | Save and New | Save | Cancel



8. If you select “More Options in Turnitin” you can set additional options. You can choose to not have paper stored in the Turnitin database, or you can create a rubric, select which sources you want to compare student papers against, or exclude certain, high-similarity elements like bibliographies from the Similarity Report.

The screenshot displays the Turnitin Assignment settings interface. On the left, the 'Turnitin® Integration' panel is visible, with the 'Originality Check®' section expanded. A green arrow points to the 'More Options in Turnitin®' button. The main dialog box, titled 'Turnitin Assignment - Google Chrome', contains the following settings:

- Title:** Sample Assignment
- Max Grade:** 100
- Optional Settings:**
 - Submission settings:**
 - Submit papers to: Standard paper repository
 - Allow submission of any file type
 - Allow late submissions
 - Enable grammar checking using ETS® e-rater® technology
 - Attach a rubric
 - Compare against:**
 - Student paper repository
 - Current and archived web site content
 - Periodicals, journals and publications
 - Similarity Report:**
 - Generate Similarity Reports for student submission: Generate reports immediately (students cannot resub)
 - Allow students to view Similarity Reports
 - Exclude bibliographic materials
 - Exclude quoted materials
 - Exclude small sources
 - Additional settings:**
 - Save these settings for future use

At the bottom of the dialog, there is a 'Submit' button. Below the dialog, the main interface shows buttons for 'Save and Close', 'Save and New', 'Save', and 'Cancel'.

9. Select “Save and Close.” You will be returned to the Assignment Dropbox page, where you will now see an icon with a pair of binoculars and a sheet of paper next to the assignment which has Turnitin activated.

Home Nashville State Community College AnnaTestCourse

Grid icon, Mail icon, Chat icon, Bell icon, Anna Young, Settings icon

Edit Course Content Assessments Communication Grades Resources Help ePortfolio More

Dropbox Folders Help

New Folder Edit Categories More Actions

Bulk Edit

<input type="checkbox"/>	Folder	New Submissions	Completed	Evaluated	Feedback Published	Due Date
No Category						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample Assignment 			0/1	0/1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ePortfolio Final Project Submission 		0/1	0/1	0/1	
ePortfolio Submission  						
<input type="checkbox"/>	ePortfolio Final Project	1	1/1	0/1	0/1	

20 per page

10. Students will also see this icon next to assignments in Assignment Dropbox activated. When they select an assignment to go to the submission folder, they will also see a disclaimer informing them at the top of the page that “This assignment will be submitted to Turnitin®.”

Dropbox > Sample Assignment

Sample Assignment

Dropbox Usage

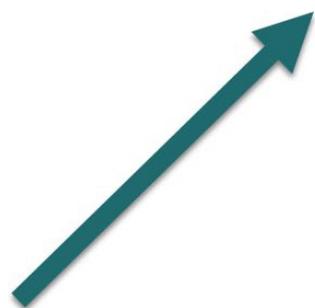
0% 100%

More Info

▼ Hide Folder Information

Turnitin®

This assignment will be submitted to Turnitin®.



Submit Assignment

Files to submit *

(0) file(s) to submit

After uploading, you must click Submit to complete the submission.

Add a File

Record Video

Comments

Paragraph ▼ **B** *I* U ▼ ▼ ...

Submit

Cancel

How to Interpret the Originality Score for Student Submissions

1. In the Assignment Dropbox, you can view student submissions by selecting the link to “New Submissions” in the list of assignments.

The screenshot shows the LMS interface for 'AnnaTestCourse'. The top navigation bar includes 'Edit Course', 'Content', 'Assessments', 'Communication', 'Grades', 'Resources', 'Help', 'ePortfolio', and 'More'. The 'Dropbox Folders' section is active, displaying a table of folders and their submission statistics. A red box highlights the 'New Submissions' value of 3 for the 'Sample Assignment' folder, with a red arrow pointing to it.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Folder	New Submissions	Completed	Evaluated	Feedback Published	Due Date
	No Category					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample Assignment  	3	1/1	0/1	0/1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ePortfolio Final Project Submission   		0/1	0/1	0/1	
	ePortfolio Submission  					
<input type="checkbox"/>	ePortfolio Final Project 	1	1/1	0/1	0/1	

- The Submissions screen that opens shows all user submissions. Beneath each submission, there is a color-coded bar under “Turnitin Similarity” which indicates at a glance the similarity match percentage between a user submission and documents on the web. In the example below, one essay is 9% similar with other documents, one is 0%, and one is a whopping 96% similar. No particular score is considered “bad” but generally similarity scores over 20% or so deserve further investigation. 9% is negligibly low and 96% is extremely high.
- Select the percentage bar to view the score in more detail.

The screenshot displays a Turnitin submission interface for a "Sample Assignment" in the "AnnaTestCourse". The user is identified as "Anna Young" and is viewing "User Submissions".

Three submissions are listed:

- Submission 3:** "Original plagiarism essay" (DOCX, 23.1 KB). Turnitin Similarity: 9% (green bar). Turnitin GradeMark: No Score.
- Submission 2:** "Paraphrased plagiarized essay" (DOCX, 19.0 KB). Turnitin Similarity: 0% (blue bar). Turnitin GradeMark: No Score.
- Submission 1:** "Blatantly plagiarized essay" (DOCX, 24.8 KB). Turnitin Similarity: 96% (red bar). Turnitin GradeMark: No Score.

The 96% similarity bar for Submission 1 is highlighted with a red box and a green arrow points to it from the bottom left. At the bottom left of the submission list, there is a "Download all files" link. On the right side, there is an "Overall Feedback" section with a rich text editor and "Record Audio" and "Record Video" buttons. At the bottom right, there are "Publish" and "Save Draft" buttons.

4. Below is an example of an essay that has been blatantly plagiarized. In fact, it was copied and pasted word-for-word from the Wikipedia page on "Plagiarism." On this screen, Turnitin shows the match score of 96% and has highlighted text that has been matched with Internet sources. Select the score number (in this case, 96) on the right hand side bar to view where individual chunks of text have been highlighted.

feedback studio | Anna Young | Blatantly plagiarized essay.docx | /100 | 3 of 3

My Plagiarism Essay

Jane Student

3 Plagiarism is the representation of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions as one's own original work.[1][2] In educational contexts, there are differing definitions of plagiarism depending on the institution.[3] Plagiarism is considered a violation of academic integrity and a breach of journalistic ethics. It is subject to sanctions such as penalties, suspension, expulsion from school[4] or work,[5] substantial fines[6][7] and even incarceration.[8][9] Recently, cases of "extreme plagiarism" have been identified in academia.[10] The modern concept of plagiarism as immoral and originality as an ideal emerged in Europe in the 18th century, particularly with the Romantic movement.

Generally, plagiarism is not in itself a crime, but like counterfeiting fraud can be punished in a court[11][12] for prejudices caused by copyright infringement,[13][14] violation of moral rights,[15] or torts. In academia and industry, it is a serious ethical offense.[16][17] Plagiarism and copyright infringement overlap to a considerable extent, but they are not equivalent concepts,[18] and many

Match Overview

96%

1	Submitted to Chabot-L... Student Paper	64%
2	www.jscs.edu Internet Source	26%
3	en.wikipedia.org Internet Source	5%

96

5. In this case, it shows that 64% of this paper came from a student paper submitted at another college. Curiously, Turnitin identified only 5% of the text as coming from Wikipedia, which is where I copied the text from. Either way, though, since most of the text is highlighted, the student in this case more than likely consciously copied large portions of this paper. You can click on the highlighted text in the essay to compare the selection from the source side-by-side, as in this example. Clicking on the link in the bubble that appears above the text will also allow you to go directly to the website in question, to view the copied text in question.

feedback studio Anna Young | Blatantly plagiarized essay.docx /100 3 of 3

Match Overview

96%

Match 1 of 1

1	Submitted to Chabot-L... Student Paper	64%
2	www.jsc.edu Internet Source	26%
3	en.wikipedia.org Internet Source	5%

My Plagiarism Essay

en.wikipedia.org
Internet Source

laggerism (disambiguation). For Wikipedia policies concerning plagiarism, see Wikipedia:Plagiarism and Wikipedia:Copyright violations. Using another author's work as if it was one's own original work **Plagiarism is the representation of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions as one's own original work.**[1][2] In educational contexts, there are differing definitions of plagiarism depending on the institution.[3] Prominent

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6. If you select the option “All Sources,” represented by a descending graph chart icon on the right-hand sidebar, you can see all sources on the Internet that Turnitin found matches with for this document.

feedback studio Anna Young | Blatantly plagiarized essay.docx /100 3 of 3

My Plagiarism Essay

Submitted to Indian Hills Community College
Student Paper

Because submitted papers remain the intellectual property of their authors, instructors, and respective institutions, we are unable to show you the content of this paper at this time. If you would still like to view this paper, please click on the institution name above to submit a permission request to the author's instructor.

Plagiarism is the representation of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions as one's own original work.[1][2] In educational contexts, there are differing definitions of plagiarism depending on the institution.[3] Plagiarism is considered a violation of academic integrity and a breach of journalistic ethics. It is subject to sanctions such as penalties, suspension, expulsion from school[4] or work,[5] substantial fines[6][7] and even incarceration.[8][9] Recently, cases of "extreme plagiarism" have been identified in academia.[10] The modern concept of plagiarism as immoral and originality as an ideal emerged in Europe in the 18th century, particularly with the Romantic movement.

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All Sources	
Match 1 of 3	
Submitted to Indian Hill... Student Papers - 2 papers	70%
Submitted to Chabot-L... Student Papers - 2 papers	70%
Submitted to Higher Ed... Student Papers - 2 papers	65%
Submitted to The Unive... Student Papers - 2 papers	58%
faqreviews.net Internet Source	52%
Submitted to Mar Vista... Student Paper	39%
en.wikipedia.org Internet Source - 23 urls	39%
en.m.wikipedia.org Internet Source - 2 urls	39%
Submitted to Rockland ... Student Paper	39%
Submitted to University... Student Papers - 2 papers	39%
Submitted to Portland ... Student Paper	38%
Submitted to Southeas... Student Paper	38%

Exclude Sources

Page: 1 of 2 Word Count: 637 Text-Only Report High Resolution On

7. The “Filters and Settings” menu, represented by a filter-shaped icon on the right-hand sidebar allows you to refine what Turnitin has included or excluded from its analysis, like quotes and bibliographies.

feedback studio | Anna Young | Blatantly plagiarized essay.docx | /100 | 3 of 3

My Plagiarism Essay

Jane Student

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Page: 1 of 2 | Word Count: 637 | Text-Only Report | High Resolution On

Filters and Settings

Filters

- Exclude Quotes
- Exclude Bibliography
- Exclude sources that are less than:
 - words
 - %
 - Don't exclude by size

Optional Settings

- Multi-Color Highlighting

Apply Changes | New Report

8. As noted above, it is important to keep in mind that Turnitin cannot make any determinations about academic dishonesty on its own. Since it really only works best at identifying whole text matches, it often misses cases of paraphrase without attribution. For instance, in the example below I simply re-worded the first paragraph of the Wikipedia article on “Plagiarism” to provide an example of inappropriate paraphrasing. Although the ideas expressed are identical to those of the Wikipedia article, Turnitin did not flag any portion of this document for similarity and it scored a 0% match.

feedback studio Anna Young | Paraphrased plagiarized essay.docx /100 1 of 3

My Plagiarism Essay: Paraphrased

Jane Student

Plagiarism is taking another person’s words or ideas and representing them as if they were your own. Different schools and colleges have different standards of what counts as plagiarism. Most schools consider plagiarism to be a form of academic dishonesty. In journalism also, plagiarism is considered to be professionally unacceptable. Plagiarizers face many possible consequences, including removal from school, being fired, forced to pay fines, or even in some cases serving jail time. Several academics have of late been found guilty of blatantly plagiarizing their works. Plagiarism has only been deemed unacceptable since the 1700s in Europe, particularly following the period associated with Romanticism, which stressed the importance of original thought.

Flags for Review

0

No Flags detected for this submission

- ✓ No hidden text
- ✓ No replaced characters

Learn more about Flags

Page: 1 of 1 Word Count: 117 Text-Only Report | High Resolution On

9. This final example illustrates how Turnitin can sometimes raise false flags even for papers that are wholly original and appropriately cited. This is an example of a wholly original paper that correctly quotes and cites a magazine article in Chicago style. Turnitin incorrectly flagged the citation as coming from another student paper. This is a common issue, as oftentimes citations appear the same in many papers. This is one reason why instructors may consider excluding quotes and bibliographies from Turnitin Similarity Reporting in the settings reviewed above. It also demonstrates why instructors should exercise discretion and closely investigate the match links, rather than only looking at originality scores, when determining whether or not an assignment was plagiarized.

The screenshot shows the Turnitin Feedback Studio interface. At the top, the document title is "Original plagiarism essay.docx" by "Anna Young". The document content is titled "My Plagiarism Essay: Original" by "Jane Student". The main text discusses plagiarism among students during the COVID-19 pandemic. On the right side, a "Match Overview" panel shows a similarity score of 9%. Below the score, a match is listed: "Submitted to Collin Co... Student Paper" with a 9% similarity score. The interface includes navigation controls at the top and bottom, and a sidebar with various tool icons.

feedback studio Anna Young Original plagiarism essay.docx -- /100 2 of 3

My Plagiarism Essay: Original

Jane Student

Plagiarism is a serious problem among students at colleges and universities in the United States. Particularly during the period of remote learning in the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems as though the temptation to copy-and-paste has become irresistible to some students, many of whom are no doubt struggling with the unique pressures of online learning. At a time when students may feel more disconnected from their instructors and fellow students than ever before, not to mention the organizational and time management demands that come with online learning, it's no wonder that some students may succumb to the pressure to cheat just to get through an assignment or a course. Others may not fully understand what counts as plagiarism in the first place and commit acts of academic dishonesty unknowingly, or with incomplete or faulty information...

As Helen Rubinstein suggests, instructors should avoid taking plagiarism personally or framing it exclusively in the language of students "*pulling one over or getting away with it.*" In reality, she suggests that in some cases plagiarism could be seen as a "plea for help" and a reflection of a student's feelings of powerlessness or inadequacy, in the face of intimidating assignments, poorly explained instructions,

Page: 1 of 1 Word Count: 210 Text-Only Report High Resolution On

Match Overview

9%

1 Submitted to Collin Co... Student Paper 9%



Match Overview

9%

Match 1 of 1
1 Submitted to Collin Co... 9% >
Student Paper

< Submitted to Collin County Community College >
Student Paper
Because submitted papers remain the intellectual property of their authors, instructors, and respective institutions, we are unable to show you the content of this paper at this time. If you would still like to view this paper, please click on the institution name above to submit a permission request to the author's instructor.

¹ Helen Rubinstein, "When Plagiarism is a Plea for Help," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 30, 2016, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/when-plagiarism-is-a-plea-for-help/>