

# Turnitin 101 for Students

## What does Turnitin check for?

Turnitin checks for instances of similarity or matching, and then flags those areas for **further review**.

## How can I use Turnitin to help with course work?

**Submit** your work to the Assignment folder in Brightspace, in advance of the due date, and review your Turnitin Report similarity highlights.

## How to Review a Turnitin Report:

### 1 Review the Match Overview

The Match Overview highlights what content is similar, and identifies the specific source in the Turnitin Database.

2 **Explore** the Match Overview data to see what external sources the similarity highlights are connected to.

3 **Use the Filter Tool**  
The filter tool allows you to filter what is checked. If you are using direct quotes, and you want to exclude them from the check, you can!

The image shows two overlapping screenshots from the Turnitin interface. The top screenshot is the 'Match Overview' panel, which displays a total similarity score of 63% in large red text. Below this, a list of sources is shown with their respective similarity percentages: 'Submitted to Algonqui... Student Paper' at 60%, 'link.springer.com Internet Source' at 2%, and 'navdeep1536.blogspot... Internet Source' at 1%. The bottom screenshot is the 'Filters and Settings' panel, which has a red header. Under the 'Filters' section, there are three options: 'Exclude Quotes' with an unchecked checkbox, 'Exclude Bibliography' with an unchecked checkbox, and 'Exclude sources that are less than:' followed by two radio button options: 'words' and '%'. The 'Don't exclude by size' option is selected with a blue radio button.

# Turnitin Reports

## What do the similarity highlights mean?:

- ① **Similarity highlights** identify material/content that has been used somewhere else, by someone else. When you have too much content highlighted in a submission, it means not enough of the content was created using a unique voice – i.e. Your own words.
- ② **Review and revise** content that has too many highlights so the submitted content is written in your own words.
- ③ **Check** the highlights to make sure you didn't accidentally copy word-for-word content (a direct quote) without proper formatting and in-text citation referencing. If you find a mistake fix it and resubmit! Remember that direct quote should be placed inside of quotation marks.
- ④ **Use** the Similarity Report to help you complete Group work. Sometimes a group member might forget to provide a reference. Check group work using Turnitin to ensure all the information used in the submission has been properly referenced, because at Algonquin, all group members are held accountable for referencing omissions.

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## For more information on Turnitin:

Turnitin Training Video 1

Turnitin Training Video 2

Turnitin Training Video 3