

Faculty Tutorial: Using Turnitin in Blackboard (ver. 1.0; updated 3/30/06)

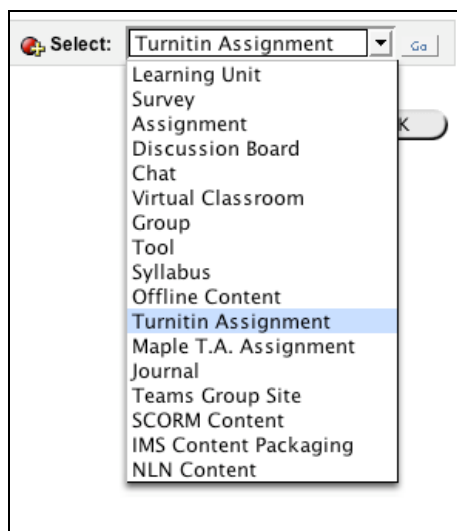
What is Turnitin?

Turnitin is a tool that allows users to check for unoriginal text in electronic documents. Documents, which can be submitted from within Blackboard, will be compared against various search targets selected by the instructor (search target options include current and archived internet websites, databases of journals and periodicals, and Turnitin's archive of previously submitted student work). After the work has been reviewed, Turnitin generates both (a) an 'Originality Score' that indicates the percentage of text in the submitted document found in the search targets and (b) an 'Originality Report' that highlights matching text and shows the source of the match.

It is our hope that Turnitin will be used primarily as an instructional, and not merely a policing, tool. Turnitin is powerful, but it will not catch all instances of plagiarism, nor does every match reveal an act of plagiarism. The Originality Report therefore requires careful interpretation by the course instructor. Moreover, some uses of Turnitin may be counterproductive to your efforts at cultivating academic integrity in your students. Before deploying Turnitin in your classroom, please consider some of the caveats and guidelines offered in the article "On the Effective and Appropriate Use of Turnitin" online at <http://www.lehigh.edu/~infddli/UsingTurnitin.htm>, where you'll also find resources for encouraging academic integrity, alternate means of deterring and detecting plagiarism, and contact information for individuals who can be of help using Turnitin and interpreting results.

Step-by-step Instructions

- 1) Sign in to your Blackboard course.
- 2) Select the content area (e.g., 'Assignments') you want students to use to turn in their assignment.
- 3) Click 'Edit View' in the upper right-hand corner. On the right-hand side of the screen, you'll see the following drop down menu:



Select 'Turnitin Assignment,' then click 'Go.'

4) The assignment setup screen looks like this:

The screenshot shows the Turnitin assignment setup interface. At the top, there's a 'create a new:' dropdown set to 'paper assignment' and a 'submit' button. Below this are fields for 'assignment title' and 'point value'. The date and time settings are: start date (Mar 29, 2006 at 13:04), due date (Apr 5, 2006 at 23:59), and post date (Apr 5, 2006 at 0:00). There's a text area for 'Enter any special assignment instructions (optional)'. Below that are dropdowns for 'Generate Originality Reports for submissions?' (set to 'yes') and 'Show advanced assignment options?' (set to 'yes'). A section for 'Generate Originality Reports for student submissions:' includes a dropdown for 'Generate Originality Reports for student submissions:' (set to 'immediately (can overwrite reports until due date)'), and checkboxes for 'Allow students to see Originality Reports?' (yes), 'Allow submissions after the due date?' (no), and 'Allow other papers to be checked against submissions?' (yes). The 'Compare submissions against these search targets:' section has checkboxes for 'student paper database', 'current and archived internet', 'Proquest', and 'Gale InfoTrac OneFile', all of which are checked.

Most of the fields are self-explanatory but if you have questions about them, click on the 'Help' link just above and to the left of the assignment setup window (tip: ignore the 'post date' option).

By default, the submitted paper will be added to Turnitin's student paper database and will be compared against all of Turnitin's search targets, Also by default, Turnitin will generate an originality report immediately, will *not* make the Report available to students, and will *not* accept submissions after the due date. You can change these options by selecting 'yes' for 'show advanced assignment options.' This is especially important if you want students to be able to learn by viewing their reports or if you do not wish your students' papers to be added to Turnitin's database.

- 5) After you have setup the assignment, click 'submit'. On the next screen, confirm by clicking 'OK.' The Assignment will be available to students on the Start Date.
- 6) After a student submits a document, it will be compared against the search targets you selected and Turnitin will generate an Originality Report.
- 7) When the Originality Score and Reports are ready, you can view the whole classes' Originality Scores at a glance by clicking on 'Turnitin Assignments' in the Control Panel, then clicking on the assignment. You can then view the Originality Report by clicking on the color-coded Originality Score. Alternately, you can access the Report through the Grade Book, by clicking on the student's grade, then electing to view Report.
 - a. As you review the Originality Scores and Reports, please bear in mind that they require interpretation. For example, highlighted text may in fact be cited correctly and therefore a good paper with many appropriately cited quotations may generate a high Originality Score (indicating a high percentage of matching text). If you discover something that looks like plagiarism, be quick to investigate but slow to judge. You may wish to ask for help from your colleagues, from your college's librarians, from the judicial affairs office, or from the director of faculty development in interpreting the results before confronting a student.
 - b. To see a sample Report, visit http://www.turnitin.com/static/popups/sample_report.html
 - c. You can enter a grade through the 'Turnitin Assignments' page. Click on the name of the paper and enter the grade in the field at the top. Note: the grade will only be recorded in the Gradebook if you click the blue arrow. Also, if you later change the grade in the Gradebook, it will *not* change the grade that appears when you access the paper through the Turnitin Assignments window.

Have questions or need help?

Visit <http://www.lehigh.edu/~infkli/UsingTurnitin.htm>

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