Some of your units at UWA will require you to submit work through Turnitin via the LMS. You might also receive feedback on your work through Grademark, an online marking tool in Turnitin.

**What is it and how does it work?**

Turnitin is an online text-matching software. When you submit work electronically through Turnitin, your work is compared with Turnitin’s database and materials published online (including websites). It looks for similarities between what you’ve written and what already exists.

**Who uses it and why?**

All UWA students and staff have access to this software through the LMS.

- **UWA Students** use it to improve their writing and referencing skills by identifying where their text matches someone else’s writing.
- **UWA Staff** use Turnitin to identify student work that closely matches other writings, to make sure students have cited their sources and referenced them correctly, and sometimes to give feedback on students’ work.

When you submit work through Turnitin, an **originality report** will be issued, indicating the proportion of your work that matches what’s on the database or online. This is what an originality report looks like:

![Originality Report Example](image)

**What does it mean?**

The **similarity index** is the percentage posted on the top right of the page. This indicates the proportion of your work that has similarities with what’s on the Turnitin database or online.

**What does it mean? (continued)**

The **match overview** lists all the sections in your work that are similar to other sources, in order of percentage of similarity.

Check what’s been highlighted and don’t panic if the percentage of similarity is higher than you expected; it doesn’t necessarily mean that you’ve plagiarised!

Turnitin may highlight things like your cover page and title, as well as indented quotations, citations and your reference list or bibliography - in other words, anything that’s appeared elsewhere. It doesn’t mean you need to change these.

Look for any blocks of highlighted text; unless they are quotations, these may indicate that you need to use your own words and sentence structure.

- **Tip1:** Check that you’ve cited all your sources and paraphrased correctly; if your paraphrase is too close to the original text, it will be highlighted even if you’ve referenced it properly.
- **Tip2:** If you’ve used quotations, make sure you’ve enclosed them in double quotation marks.

**What percentage is regarded as ok?**

There’s no set percentage ‘cut-off’ for similarity; the similarity score just indicates where your work matches text in Turnitin’s database. The person marking the assignment will assess the level of similarity and your use of correct referencing.

**How can you use Turnitin to improve your writing?**

If it’s available in your LMS unit, use the **originality report** to check that you’ve cited your sources correctly and to improve your referencing skills.*

*See overleaf for where you can get help
Need help? Information Services and STUDYSmarter can help you to...

√ use Turnitin to submit work
√ use citations
√ paraphrase
√ quote
√ summarise work from different sources
√ reference

In person:
• Drop in at WRITESmart on the ground floor of the Reid Library (10am-12pm Mon-Fri during semester) and talk to a learning skills adviser or reference librarian.
• Attend a STUDYSmarter workshop on how to reference and use sources.
• Visit an Information Desk in any Subject Library for help with using Turnitin and referencing.

Online:
• The STUDYSmarter website has resources to help you with referencing and avoiding plagiarism, including:
  • a YouTube video on referencing and using sources at UWA
  • Plagiarism portal - a one-stop shop for information about plagiarism
  • Survival guides for avoiding plagiarism, avoiding academic misconduct, quoting, and paraphrasing: select the Reading and thinking link (red).
• AskUWA has answers to many questions about academic conduct and Turnitin.
• Information services has guides on referencing: go to the Subject Guides page.
• Turnitin section in the LMS Student Help Site

Other useful resources:
• Academic Conduct Essentials explains the principles of academic conduct and ethical scholarship.
• Communication And Research Skills helps you develop your research and communication

Like this Survival Guide? Why not check out...
Survival Guides: Avoiding plagiarism, Avoiding academic misconduct, Quoting,

Want to know more about STUDYSmarter?
Find out about all our services and resources at: www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au

Any suggestions?
We’d love to hear from you. Email us at study.smarter@uwa.edu.au

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