turnitin™

Interpreting the Turnitin Similarity Report: The new experience

More than a similarity score

The Turnitin Similarity Report is a powerful tool that quickly identifies unoriginal or improperly cited student writing by highlighting similarities to the world's largest collection of internet, academic, and student paper content.

Each Similarity Report generates a similarity score which is the percentage of matching or similar text that has been uncovered. The similarity score is not a determination of plagiarism. The decision to deem any work plagiarized should be made only after careful examination of both the submitted paper and the suspect sources, not by simply viewing the similarity score

While the Similarity Report is a great resource to check student work for possible plagiarism, the true power of the report is realized when it's used as a formative assessment tool to strengthen academic writing skills and improve outcomes.
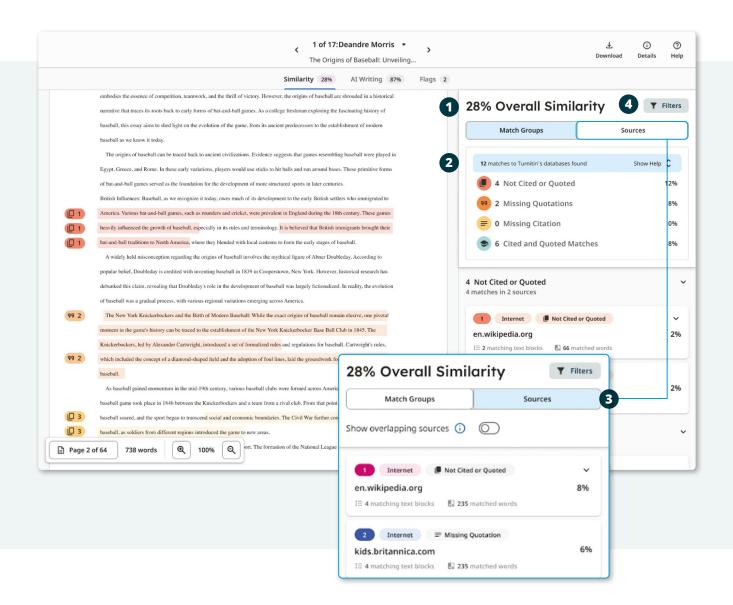
5 ways to use the Similarity Report to improve student outcomes:

1 Teach students about the different types of plagiarism and how to properly attribute sources, including self-citation.

2 Increase students' respect for intellectual property and reinforce the value of authentic work.

3 Improve student's writing by teaching them the uses of and distinctions between quotations, paraphrases, and summaries.

4 Use the Missing Quotations and Missing Citation match categories to identify teachable moments and help students target areas that need work.

5 Use drafts to empower students to check their work and improve before final submission.

Navigating the enhanced similarity report

❶ Similarity Score

This number is the similarity score, which indicates what percentage of the paper matches to Turnitin's databases. It is perfectly normal for an assignment to match against some of our databases.

❷ Match Groups

The new Match Groups tab categorizes matches into groups based on the usage of in-text citations and quotation marks. Each match, or instance of text found similar to a source, is highlighted in its corresponding match group color.

❸ Sources

The Sources tab provides a list of sources organized in descending order by highest total similarity percentage. (These sources are the same as those detailed in source cards in the Match Groups view.)

❹ Filters and Settings

The new filters panel allows you to customize the report and streamline your analysis by providing a range of options to exclude irrelevant matches and modify which databases students submissions are checked against.

Learn more at https://www.turnitin.com/products/features/new-similarity-report/