

## Using Turnitin to support good academic practice

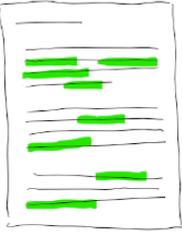
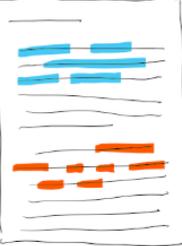
### What does a high score in my originality report mean?

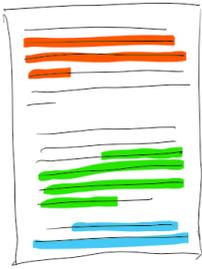
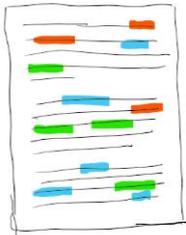
- Your reference list or bibliography has not been excluded from the report (tutors can change the settings on Turnitin to exclude these)
- The assignment is presented in a standard format, for example a report or table with a template or sections that will be the same for all candidates
- Discipline-specific phrases and terminology - for which there is no alternative – must be used, for example in medicine and law

There is little you can do to avoid high scores caused by these issues. However, you can make changes when high scores are because:

- You have used the words of others in direct quotations, or in summaries
- You have a high proportion of direct quotations from other sources in your work

### How can a Turnitin originality report help me improve my writing?

	What the report shows	What this means	What you can do
High risk of plagiarism	 <p>Lots of text highlighted in the same colour</p>	Over-reliance on one source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you re-write your work to include other information or points of view from different sources?</li> <li>• Can you summarise or paraphrase the source more effectively?</li> </ul>
	 <p>Multiple words or short phrases</p>	Ineffective summarising or paraphrasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid replacing individual words in sentences: re-order the elements of the sentence in your own words.</li> <li>• Summarise or synthesise multiple sources together – identify similarities and</li> </ul>

	highlighted in a single sentence or paragraph		differences and use these to structure your writing.
Medium risk	 <p>Multiple sections of text highlighted over two lines or more</p>	Overuse of long quotations from sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct quotations should be limited; only use words and short quotes where you cannot express the idea better than the original author, and always cite correctly.</li> <li>• Aim to summarise or paraphrase your sources to demonstrate your understanding.</li> </ul>
	 <p>Many two or three-word phrases highlighted in different colours</p>	Employing commonly-used phrases: this can show that you are engaging with the language or terminology of your discipline and be an indicator of your growing confidence in your subject area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check that the phrases you are using are appropriate to your subject and are not ones which should be re-written in your own words.</li> </ul>
Low risk	 <p>The reference list or bibliography has many highlights</p>	Referencing is accurate! If your reference list is included in the originality report and has a high level of matches this can be a good sign - it shows that your referencing conforms to a recognised citation system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always check that the referencing style you have used is the one specified in your assignment brief.</li> </ul>

### Further reading

[Learn how to synthesise](#) – Skills Hub activity

[Using information from sources](#) – Skills Hub guide

Creame, P. and Lea, M. R (2008) Chapter 8: Making good use of your sources.  
*Writing at university: A guide for students* (3rd Ed.) Maidenhead: Open University  
Press.