Understanding the Similarity Report in Turnitin Draft Coach™

A student guide

Draft Coach's Similarity Report quantifies how similar your work is to other pieces of writing, highlighting any areas in your paper that match outside sources. Before turning in your work, use the report to make revisions and ensure all matches are appropriate according to assignment expectations and your school's acceptable thresholds.

Similarity Score

The Similarity Score represents the percentage of your writing that is similar to something found on the internet, in our databases, or in someone else's paper. Similarity does not mean that your work is plagiarized. Educators should be considering acceptable forms of similarity, like quotations, citations, and bibliographic material when they review the score.

Match Overview **2**

The Match Overview offers a clear summary of sources that match text in your writing. A high percentage score shows a larger amount of text that is similar, and matches are highlighted in the same color.
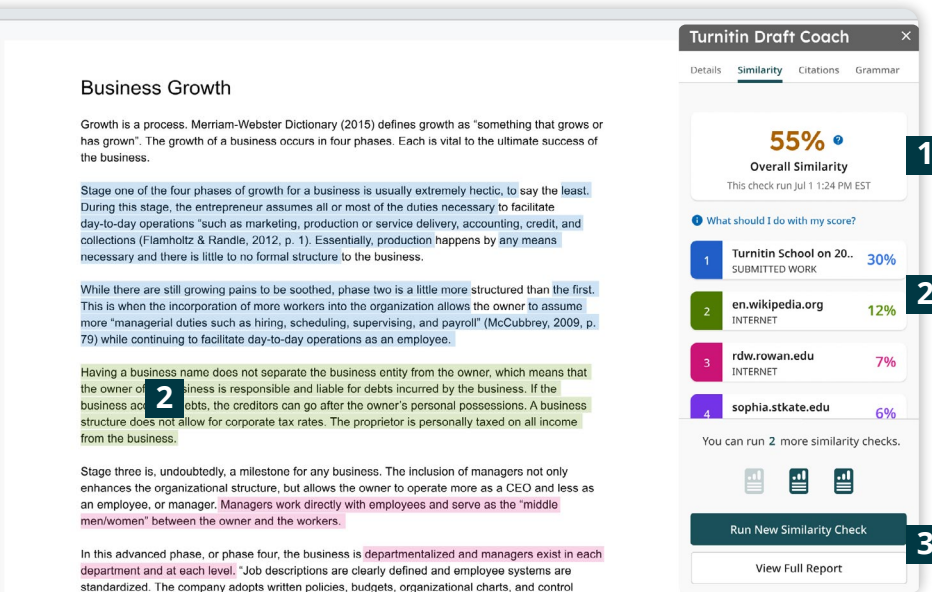
Full Report **3**

The Full Report provides a more complete view of your matches:

All Sources - Review every source that matches the text in your writing by clicking on Sources Overview.

Settings - Exclude citations, quotes, or bibliographic information from your score by clicking on the gear icon.

What is a reasonable Similarity Score? **1**

There is no fixed number to receive as a score in your Similarity Report. Consult your educator for details on your school's acceptable threshold for assignments.

• A high Similarity Score means that very little of your paper is your own writing.

• Zero similarity means that you aren't including any source-based evidence, a requirement for many assignments.

• Some similarity is usually expected.

Review the chart at the end of this document for more information.
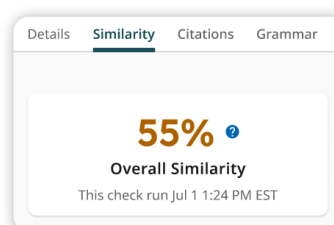
What can I do with the information in my report?

The information in your Turnitin Similarity Report should help you make decisions about how to improve your writing, whether that is in later drafts of the same assignment or on future assignments of a different nature. If you have the opportunity to revise your writing based on your Similarity Score, consider the following:

• Choose only the most significant quotes or parts of quotes to include from your sources.

• Summarize, paraphrase, or explain an idea in your own words rather than quoting it directly.

• Cite all of your evidence using the appropriate citation style.

What should I do if I need help with my score?

If you have questions or concerns about your score or any information within your report, discuss it with your educator in a timely manner.

• Bring details and data from your paper and your report so you can have an informed conversation about your current score and how you can make changes to improve.

• Spend some time before this conversation reflecting on your work, noting areas that may need attention, and determining ways that you can revise your writing to improve your Similarity Score.

What should I do if:	Consider the following:
...my score is too high? This means that too much of your paper comes from other sources.	• Balance the information that you use from texts with your own writing. • Determine when it would be most appropriate to paraphrase, summarize, or explain an idea in your own words. • Properly cite each source that you reference.
...my score is too low? This means that too little of your paper comes from other sources.	• Balance your own writing with the information that you use from sources. • Determine when it would be most appropriate to quote directly from a source or paraphrase information to add research-based support for your claim. • Properly cite each source that you reference.
...large sections of my paper come from a source? This means that too much of your paper comes from other sources.	• Include your own words in your writing where necessary. • Select only the most important part of each quote, rather than including an entire paragraph that includes extraneous information. • Explain each quote that you reference, offering an analysis of how it applies to your claim.
...large sections of my paper are only my words? This means that too little of your paper comes from other sources.	• Include research-based information that can support your claim. • Properly cite each source that you reference.