

# Turnitin FAQs

Q: What is Turnitin (Tii)?

A: Tii is an online tool that evaluates written content for originality and proper citation of content taken from outside resources. The result of the evaluation is the Turnitin Originality Report.

Q: What is a Tii Originality Report?

A: The Tii Originality Report highlights passages of content that match the source of that content. The Originality Report itself does not detect or determine plagiarism. The report simply helps students avoid unintentional plagiarism and assists instructors in determining whether students are submitting original content and properly citing content from outside sources.

Q: What does the Originality Report indicate about a student's assignment?

A: The Originality Report is a tool that helps students understand whether the content in an assignment is cited properly and the percentage of the assignment which matches outside sources of that content. The Originality Report also indicates whether the paper has been submitted multiple times.

Q: How do instructors use the Originality Report and how does it affect a student's grade?

A: The Originality Report should not by itself affect a student's grade. Instructors are expected to reference the Originality Report when evaluating student work, thus enhancing the analysis of the originality of a student's written work.

Q: What makes up the Tii repository database?

A: The Tii repository database is made up of three resources from three locations: Internet sources, publications, and student papers. The Internet sources repository is made up of current and archived Internet web pages. Not only can the repository provide content from the web but it also provides the location where the web page was found. The publications repository is comprised of an extensive collection of journal articles, dissertations, governmental paperwork, and various other types of research and publications from around the world. The final repository is student papers, made up of students' papers and assignments previously submitted to Tii. The repositories are constantly growing. According to the Tii website ([http://turnitin.com/en\\_us/resources/blog/421-general/1644-top-15-misconceptions-about-turnitin](http://turnitin.com/en_us/resources/blog/421-general/1644-top-15-misconceptions-about-turnitin)), Tii receives over 200,000 papers daily for processing into its databases.

Q: How can the Tii Originality Report indicate a site that was not accessed during the researching process for an assignment? Doesn't that mean that Tii has to be wrong?

A: The Tii report indicates that the content was found at the site listed but this site is likely one of several sites containing this information. This match does not necessarily mean that plagiarism occurred; further review by the student and the instructor must occur to fully understand the meaning of each match.

Q: Can the draft of an assignment be submitted to Tii for the Originality Report before submitting the final iteration of the paper to the Dropbox and the Tii repository?

A: Students are encouraged to use Tii as a resource to obtain draft reports before assignments are due in order to edit and improve the content of the assignment. Keep in mind that drafts of the same assignment can only be submitted once in a 24-hour time period.

Q: How can the Originality Report as accessed by a professor differ in the Similarity Index from the Originality Report accessed by the student?

A: This discrepancy is likely due to variances in the specified parameters and settings between the submissions into Tii. Tii allows for options between submissions dependent upon need. UOR and Bridgepoint Education have recently decreased variances by aligning the parameters between draft submissions and final drop box submissions.

Q: Who do I talk to if I disagree with the instructor's interpretation of the Originality Report?

A: Students should discuss all concerns with the faculty member first. If a student has an issue that cannot be resolved through conversation, the student should contact his or her Student Advisor for additional options.

Q: What do the colors in my Tii Originality Report mean?

A: Tii utilizes colors to help students and instructors understand the application. In the Originality Report, the colors in the content on the left side of the report match the colors in the listing of resources on the right indicating where the content was found within the repository database. Red with red, green with green, and so forth.

Q: When submitting assignments to the drop box, students can see a colored square with a percentage inside it. What do the colors and the percentage mean?

A: The colored square provides the similarity index of the paper after submission to the drop box, indicating the depth of which the paper is similar or matching the repository database. Red indicates a paper is 75% - 100% matching with the Tii database; orange indicates 50% - 74% matching; yellow indicates 25% - 49% matching; green indicates 0% - 24% matching; blue indicates less than 20 words in the paper matching. To review the Originality Report, click on the colored square which reveals the content of the paper with the matching content from the repository database.

Q: Where can I learn more about Tii?

A: The Turnitin website has a large number of resources for students and the community to better understand the program and its value to writers. Access these at: <http://turnitin.com>  
In addition, University of the Rockies provides videos and documents within the UOR Writing Center to help the UOR learning community better understand and utilize the Tii application.