Turnitin as a Tool for Students: Originality and Interpreting Reports
South University has implemented a learning tool in the dropbox that will help you with your academic writing skills.

When you submit an assignment to the dropbox, your paper will be automatically evaluated for academic citation errors and similarity to other sources by the turnitin.com website.

The evaluation will produce a written Originality Report with feedback on any APA citation errors and areas that you did not properly paraphrase or quote.
Turnitin Procedures

• You will have access to your Turnitin Originality Report within the dropbox. After reviewing and interpreting your Turnitin report, you may revise your paper and resubmit it before the due date.

• Your new paper will be the one graded, provided that it is still submitted by the due date.
What is Turnitin?

• Turnitin is a website.
• Turnitin is a repository for papers.
• Turnitin is a database.
• Turnitin compares papers with thousands of websites and papers.
• Turnitin generates a similarity report.
• Turnitin is a tool used by instructors and students to reduce instances of plagiarism.
**Turnitin: What do I do?**

- Submit all paper assignments to the dropbox

- Check the dropbox for the Turnitin similarity reports—the first submission will take less than 1 hour; subsequent submissions can take up to 24 hours.
Turnitin: What do I do?

- Look in the dropbox, click on the Turnitin icon to open the report to check the percentage of similarity and to see what you can correct in the paper.

- Generally, the lower the similarity index, the better.
What is an acceptable percentage?

- While you should seek a low similarity index, reports should not be judged by the similarity index alone.

- Every originality report must be interpreted for the types of matches -- distinguishing between those that should be ignored (common phrases, titles, references, block quotes, coincidental duplicative language) from wording that is not properly cited, quoted, paraphrased or is copied directly from the internet, published source, or another student’s paper.

- Originality reports are a tool to help identify duplicative language that must be further evaluated by the student and instructor.
Turnitin: What do I do?

- Click on the color for details—this will show the exact matches to the original sources.

that these stereotypes may be implicit or explicit in nature. Greenwald and Banaji (1995) defined implicit stereotypes as "...the introspectively unidentified (or inaccurately identified) traces of past experience that mediate attributions of the qualities to members of a social category" (pg. 15). White (2006) further explained that implicit stereotypes
Turnitin: What do I do?

• Check to see if the words in your paper are exact—no original words inserted.
• Check to see if you are missing quotation marks.

Internet source
findarticles.com

nd serve as guidelines for social interaction. It is increasingly clear that implicit processes are important in stereotyping. Greenwald and Banaji (1995, p. 15) have defined implicit stereotypes "as the introspectively unidentified (or inaccurately identified) traces of past experience that mediate attributions of qualities to members of a social category." Implicit stereotypes and other implicit cognitive forms reflect the continuing influence of past experience and learned associations. They are the remaining influence of explicit beliefs that, although consciously abandoned.
Important information is indicated in the Similarity Report:

- Check the overall percentage
- Check the breakdown
- Click on the color for the original source text
Turnitin: What if s

What if I see this in the dropbox?

• The blue “in progress” icon indicates that turnitin is in the process of evaluating your paper. Please check back later for your report.

• The red “error” icon indicates an error occurred in conducting the evaluation. Try resubmitting your paper again. If you continue to get this error icon, check with your instructor. It could mean the dates for the assignment have expired and need to be reset by the instructor.
Turnitin: What ifs

• Should I worry about this?

• Words found in course/program templates will show on the Similarity Report—Worry about the text, not the template.
What if my percentage is high?

Use the Similarity Report and the APA Manual to fix common APA errors that cause Turnitin to match the words in your paper to sources held in the database and the repository.

Resubmit your corrected paper to the dropbox to generate another Turnitin Similarity Report.
**Turnitin: What ifs**

What if my percentage is too high?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/5/2011 11:03 PM</td>
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Turnitin: How do I fix my paper?

• Look at the highest percentage (on the right) and find the corresponding color in your paper (on the left).

• Determine the citation issue:
  • Did you forget the quotation marks?
  • Did you forget the citation?
  • Did you try to paraphrase?
  • Did you copy/paste?
  • Did you use part of a paper from a previous class?

Look in the APA Manual to cite correctly.
Correct the issues and resubmit to the dropbox.
Turnitin: How do I fix my paper?

- Start with the highest percentage breakdowns indicated on the Similarity Report

two year institutions. The American Association of Community Colleges (2010), through their website and monthly publications, had this to say in support of AGI:

2. The President's proposals, as exciting and welcome as they are, mark just the start of what will very likely be extended legislative jostling. We ask for your ongoing support in our efforts to influence this legislation, and will be contacting you further about it shortly. In the meantime, we can feel proud that our contributions and potential have been recognized in such a dramatic fashion. (para. 10) Education representatives are continually expressing their interest and support of this initiative. Moltz (2010) highlighted some of the communication amongst Administrators on the state level, "Local officials have done a good job of expressing some of President Obama's goals for education,"

5. said Stephen M. Curtis, president of Community College of Philadelphia"

(para. 6). Because of the clear communication of the AGI guidelines, two-year colleges are working to prepare themselves to reach the benchmarks which will be put in place by the plan. This self-assessment
Turnitin: How do I fix my paper?

- The punctuation before the block should be a colon; there are fewer than 40 words with no quotation marks; misplaced quotation marks.

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Turnitin: How do I fix my paper?

• Once you understand that Turnitin uses markers—periods, colons, quotation marks—to exclude words from the Similarity Report, then proofreading, editing, and time management become an important aspect of the writing process.

• Remember, you can submit your assignment as many times as needed up to the due date of the assignment.

• Review the late work guidelines to ensure adherence.
What is a quote?

“Quotations must be identical to the original, using a narrow segment of the source. They must match the source document word for word and must be attributed to the original author” (Purdue OWL, 2006, para. 3).
What if I need to adjust the wording in a quote that I would like to use in my paper?

- Place your original added words in brackets [here].
- Do not fix errors in the original text. Instead, add \textit{sic} after the error to alert the reader.
- Do not add or fix punctuation in the original text.
- Be sure to cite all quoted material.
Turnitin: How do I fix my paper?

• Turnitin.com is set up to ignore text that is properly quoted, so the quoted text should not appear in the similarity index.

• If you forget to start or end a quotation with quotation marks, then the report will not recognize the quote and the information will show up on the report.

• For block quotations, remember to use the colon prior to starting your indented block text, otherwise, Turnitin.com will not recognize the text as a block quote over 40 words.
The population comprised preschool children, ages 3 and 4, in home care and certified, accredited day care settings within the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area of Walker, Jefferson and Shelby counties in Alabama. The nonrandom convenience samples comprised 51 Caucasian, middle-class, three and four year old children. Twenty-five children were in licensed day care centers and 26 were in home care environments (Currier and Schmith, 1984).

The planned investigative study was submitted and approved by the Institutional Review Board at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Owners of numerous day care centers were contacted by several investigators in order to establish subjects for the research. After an extensive search, a group of day care centers within the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area of Jefferson, Shelby, and Walker counties provided the investigators with names of potential subjects. The mothers of these potential subjects were contacted by telephone by the investigators with the names of potential subjects (Currier and Schmith, 1984).
Turnitin: How do I fix my paper?

What is a paraphrase?

**Paraphrasing** involves putting a passage from source material into your own words. A paraphrase must also be attributed to the original source. Paraphrased material is usually shorter than the original passage, taking a somewhat broader segment of the source and condensing it slightly (Purdue OWL, 2006, para. 4).

*A paraphrase is not just changing a few words in the original sentence.*
Turnitin: How do I fix my paper?

• Minimize the use of quoted material.
• If quoting, use the exact words—even if errors are in the original.
• Do not copy/paste from sources—even a student’s own work previously turned in for credit.
• Use the thesaurus in the Word program.
• Read, verbalize, then write to begin the paraphrasing process—You can’t paraphrase well what you don’t understand.
• Place the citation after the sentence quoted or paraphrased.
Turnitin: How do I fix my paper?

• 1.10 Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism (pp. 15-16)
• References the APA Ethics Code (Standard 8.11)
• Discusses the need to credit sources that are used AND that authors need to also reference the source of concepts and written words.
• Self-plagiarism
• 6.01 Plagiarism
• 6.02 Self-Plagiarism
Turnitin: Settings

Turnitin is set up the same for all courses to ensure consistency in how Turnitin is used. Turnitin is set up to:

• Exclude bibliographic materials from the Similarity Index
• Exclude quoted materials from the Similarity Index
• Exclude small matches (word count by at least 10 words)
Turnitin: Human Judgment

• Turnitin is a “text-matching system that still requires that the instructor determine whether the writing is, in fact, plagiarism” (Jones, 2008).

• Thus, determinations of plagiarism require HUMAN JUDGMENT (student and instructor).
Review of the Policy

• Turnitin will be used in ALL South University Online courses beginning in the May 14th session start.
• Dropbox assignments will generate a Turnitin Similarity Report automatically.
• The student is encouraged to use the Turnitin Similarity Report to correct APA errors and to resubmit the paper to the dropbox before the due date of the assignment.
• Be sure to adhere to the late work guidelines.
Additional Resources:

• The Turnitin website has a wealth of resources and training materials for students on their support page.

• We recommend the following resource from the Turnitin website:
  – Viewing an Originality Report video
  – Student Manual
Thank You!