# Reviewing a Turnitin Similarity Report (Students)

The integration of Turnitin Originality with Canvas LMS enables faculty to require that submitted student submissions are scanned by the Turnitin Originality tool to identify potential originality issues (plagiarism).

## What is the Turnitin Similarity Report?

According to Turnitin's user support site, *Turnitin **does not check for plagiarism**. What we actually do is compare your submissions against our database and highlight wherever your writing is similar to one of our sources. Our database includes billions of web pages: both current and archived content from the internet, a repository of works other students have submitted to Turnitin in the past, and a collection of documents, which comprises thousands of periodicals, journals, and publications. The Similarity Report provides a summary of details, including the sources matched to your submission, to use as a tool to determine if the matches are acceptable. When a Similarity Report is available for viewing, a similarity score percentage is made available. The similarity score is the percentage of matched text your submission contains. We calculate this by dividing the total words in a submission by the amount of words matched to outside sources* (Turnitin, 2025).

For additional information about the similarity report, text matching, and plagiarism, please use the hyperlink below to access Turnitin's video on those topics.

[Video] Understanding Text Similarity for Students

> **NOTE: Instructors determine whether students may access and review the similarity report for their assignment submissions.**
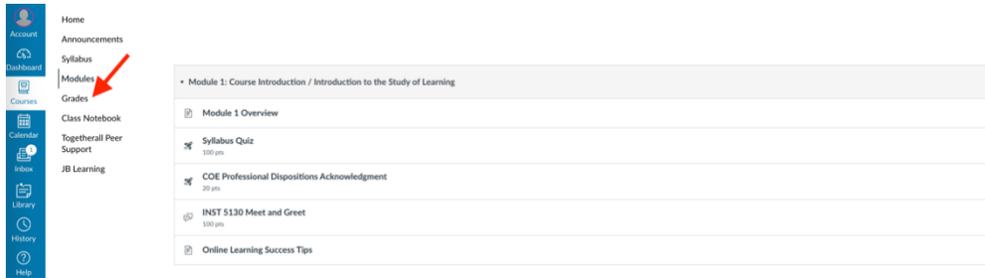
## Accessing/Reviewing Your Turnitin Similarity Report

The following steps outline how you access and review a Turnitin Similarity Report (**if the instructor has enabled that option**) for an assignment you've submitted. There are two ways to access your submitted assignment and the Originality
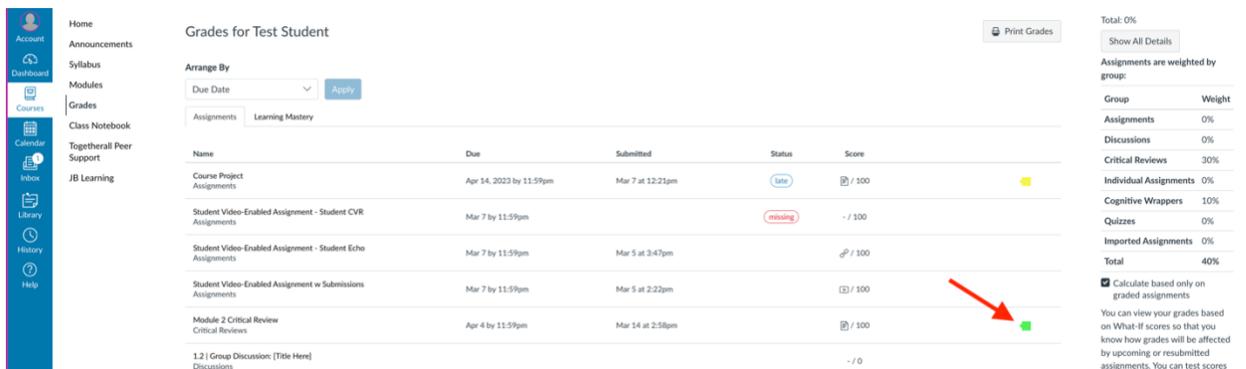
Report: (1) Use the Grades link on the course menu, and (2) Go to the Assignment itself.
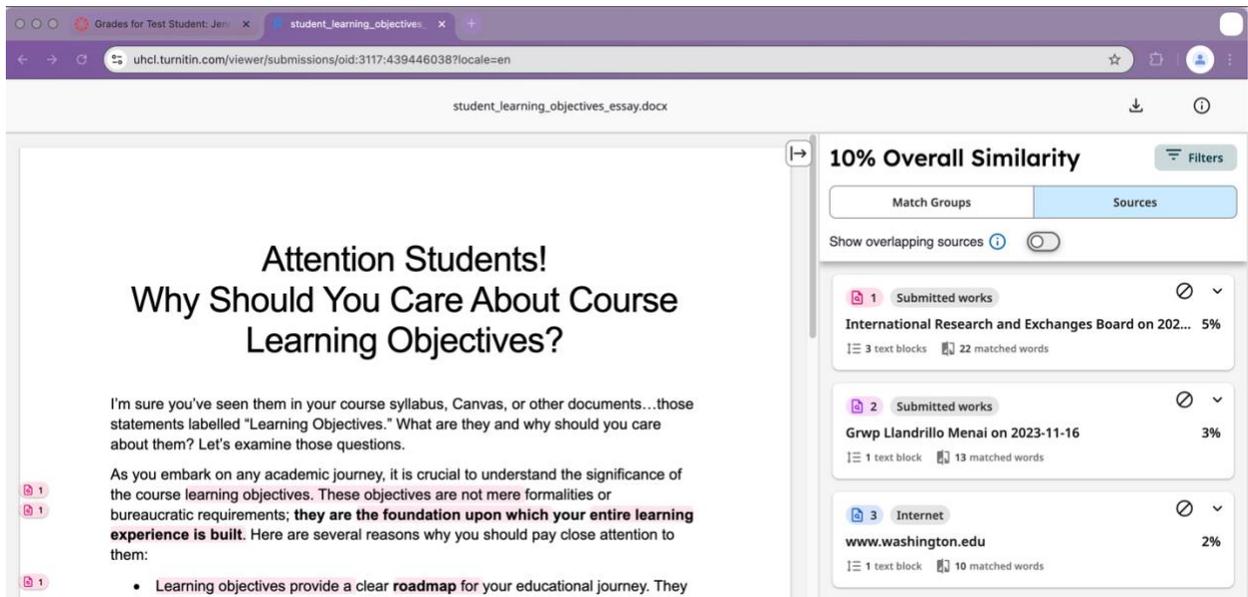
## Option 1: Canvas Grades Link

1. In your Canvas course shell, click the **Grades link** in the course menu. If you don't see a Grades link, please contact your instructor to request that they make it available.



2. At the resulting Grades for… screen, locate the line for the assignment for which you want to review your Similarity Report. In the row for that assignment, click the **colored flag (Similarity Report icon)** on the far right of the line to open the Similarity Report. If no flag exists, either Turnitin isn't finished processing the submission, or your instructor has opted to NOT make the report available to learners.
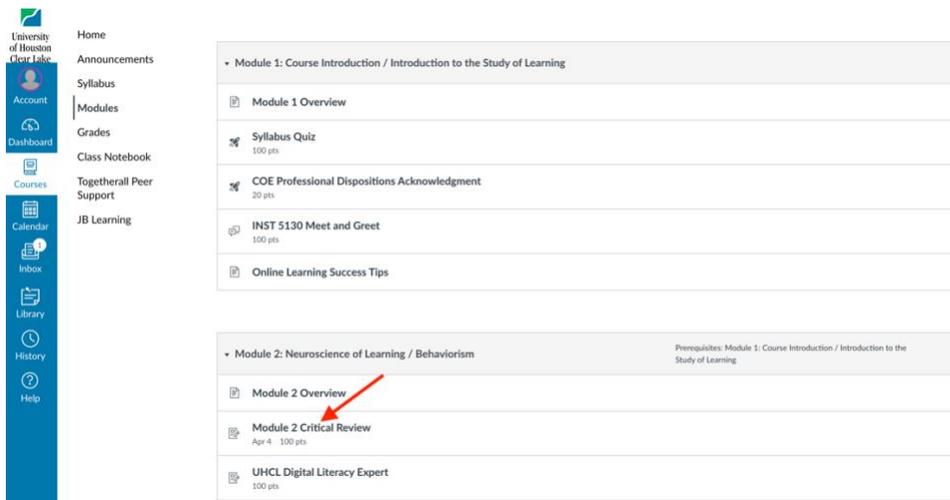
3. The Similarity Report for your submitted assignment will open in a new browser tab.
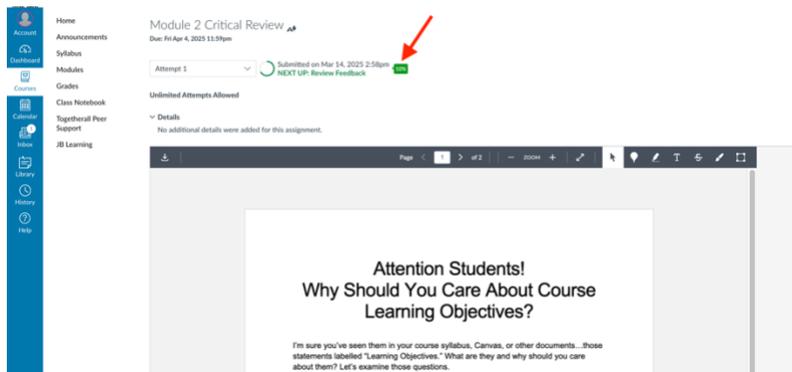


## Option 2: Access from the Assignment

1. In your Canvas course shell, locate and click the assignment for which you want to review your Similarity Report.
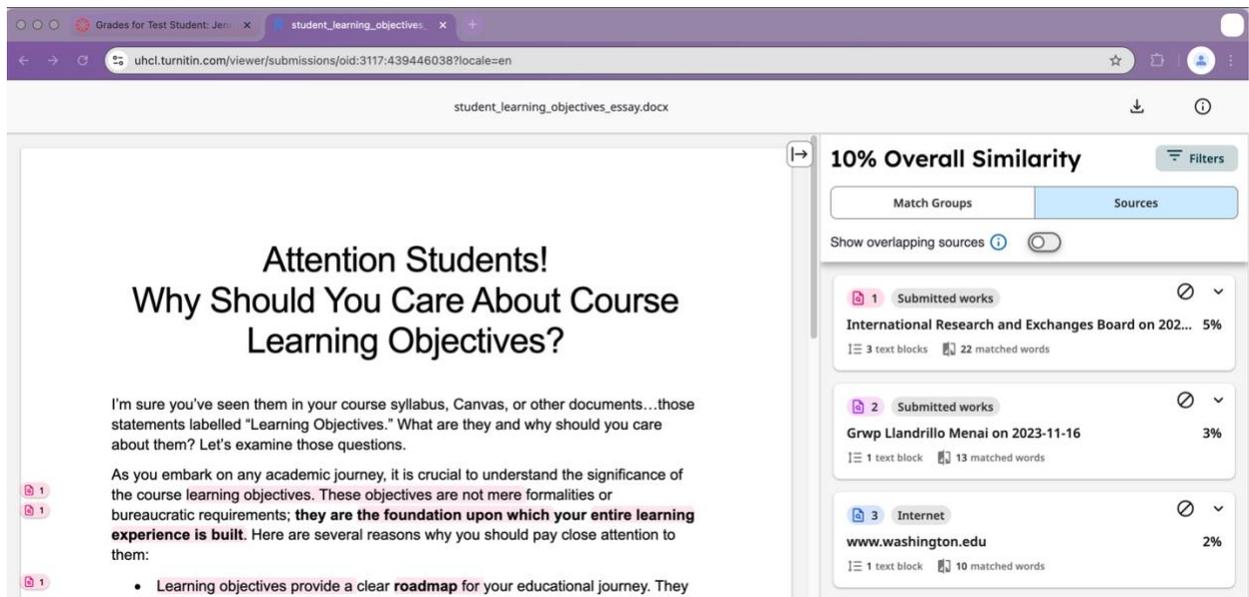


2. At the resulting Assignment submission screen, locate and click the **colored flag (Similarity Report icon)** located next to the submission date to open the Similarity Report. If no flag exists, either Turnitin isn't finished processing the

submission or your instructor has opted to NOT make the report available to learners.



3. The Similarity Report for your submitted assignment will open in a new browser tab.



## Understanding the Similarity Report

The Similarity Report can look a bit intimidating, but it's very easy to understand with just a bit of clarifying information. We recommend the following Turnitin resources for students to learn more about the report.

- Understanding the Turnitin Similarity Report: The New Experience for Students
- Self-guided Demo: Student Experience

- [Student Guide: Understanding the Turnitin Similarity Report](#)

## Caveat Regarding Generative AI

If you use a generative AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot, Google Gemini) for your academic work, you should be aware that Turnitin does evaluate submissions for indicators of AI use. However, the results of the AI detection component are not currently provided in the student Similarity Report. **The AI results are provided to Instructors in their Enhanced Originality Report for each student submission.** Therefore, please make sure that you know your instructors' expectations and policies regarding the use of generative AI in their courses and understand that different instructors have different policies from one class to another.

## Conclusion

If you encounter any difficulties while following the above procedure, or if you have other Turnitin-related questions, please contact OIT's Support Center via any of the following methods:

- In Person (B2300)
- Telephone: 281.283.2828
- Email: [supportcenter@uhcl.edu](mailto:supportcenter@uhcl.edu)