DMU Replay title: **Turnitin Similarity Reports (July 2018)**

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Total length of audio: 00:03:52,700

Turnitin is used to detect plagiarism. Plagiarism means "the significant use of other people's work and the submission of it as though it were one's own in assessed coursework (such as dissertations, essays, experiments etc.)”.

To avoid plagiarism, you must ensure you clearly reference any use you do make of another person’s work (or even other, previous work of your own).

Turnitin checks your assignment against an enormous repository of books, articles websites and previously submitted assignments.

It will then produce an **originality report** showing text it has found in its database that matches portions of your assignment.

To view this report, click on the **similarity score** Turnitin has produced for your assignment.

You may need to click again on the ‘View/Complete' button for this assignment.

Matched portions of text are highlighted in colour. The ‘Match overview’ button shows how the similarity score has been calculated. Here the score of 65% is made up of three components. The ‘Match overview’ button also shows a source for each of the matches. When more than one external source matches your text, the ‘All Sources’ button shows the various matching sources.

You may find that sections of your essay – even when correctly referenced – nevertheless still contribute to your similarity score. For example, sometimes parts of the bibliography – including the details of books and journal articles – may cause Turnitin to find a match even when they aren’t part of the main text.

And sometimes quotations – even when placed within quote marks will nevertheless produce a similarity match. But don’t forget: your module tutor will view the report too.

To avoid plagiarism, you must clearly and accurately **reference** any use you make of another person’s work (or even other, previous work of your own).

Some courses at DMU permit students to re-submit their assignments multiple times until the deadline. If that is the case on your course you could view your initial similarity report and then try to reduce your similarity score - by, for example, reducing the amount of quotations, or by paraphrasing, using your own words and phrasing instead of a quote.

Quote marks around each quote may also reduce the score (depending on how Turnitin has been set up).

Although Turnitin normally produces its initial similarity report within a couple of minutes, subsequent resubmissions of your assignment made prior to the due may often take 24 to 48 hours to appear.