14 Interpreting A Turnitin Feedback Report
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Summary of Teaching & Learning Context

Working to support academic writing skills across the whole university, an instructional video on how to use the information presented in a Turnitin feedback report was developed.

Students are often asked to review their work for possible plagiarism. However, anecdotal evidence suggested that students do not always know how this can be achieved. The issue of identifying text similarity matches has been addressed by adding a non-repository Turnitin upload practice link on the Academic Writing Skills Moodle resource page. Students can use this link to generate a feedback report on a draft of an assignment they are writing prior to submitting the assignment for their module.

Generating the report is one part of the issue of identifying matches of text. However, students do not always know what to do with the information contained in the report. As a solution, a short instructional video was created using Screencast.

The video presents an example of a Turnitin Feedback report on a writing assignment, with analysis of the different text matches. The voice over and captions explain why the match might have occurred. The video also presents strategies that can be applied to different types of text matches to improve the quality of writing, increasing awareness of academic integrity.

Implementing the Strategy

This screencast video, approximately seven minutes in length, has been uploaded to the Academic Writing Skills Moodle page. Access to the Turnitin Upload Practice link is restricted until the student has viewed the instructional video. This is required only once; however, students can view the video as many times as they need.

As a result, students become more aware of how to use the feedback information in the report. Data from the Moodle page suggests that this resource is well used by students, with multiple views by some users, thus achieving the goal of being a reusable learning resource. Should students require more assistance, they are able to make an appointment in the Academic Writing Centre to discuss the feedback report, and ways that their writing can be enhanced based on the information in the report.

Your Observations/Reflections

This resource has had a positive impact on students developing stronger academic writing skills. It has increased the value of Turnitin as a similarity checker. Students are looking past the percentage to analyse their writing and are now identifying possible reasons why text has matched another source. This has resulted in students being more aware of unintentional academic misconduct, developing an increased knowledge of the value of paraphrasing and correct citations. This process contributes to a positive awareness of academic integrity.