Bridge over troubled water*: a literacy approach to using Turnitin

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* Our thanks to Simon and Garfunkel.
Reduce Plagiarism

Check students’ work for improper citation or potential plagiarism by comparing it against the world’s largest academic database.

Demo

A Natural Setting
A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley

Yosemite National Park is a United States National Park spanning eastern portions of Tuolumne, Mariposa and Madera counties in east central California; United States. Although not the first designated national park, Yosemite was central to the development of the national park idea, since its first discovery by non-Indigenous people in mid-nineteenth century. Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature.

While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind,
The similarity report

Swaps views between report and marker’s comments

Shows the matching text in the original source.

Overall similarity percentage

Detail about matched sources. Numbered and colour coded.

Identified match, linked with the match overview.
Research question 1

To what extent can a literacy approach reduce students’ anxiety about plagiarism?
Research question 2

To what extent can a literacy approach to Turnitin that uses active learning resources and scaffolded activities develop students’ understanding of academic integrity?

We focus on three areas

• Quoting
• Paraphrasing
• Summarising
Research question 3

How can a literacy approach to Turnitin enhance students’ authorial voice?

Authorial voice achieved by:
• Establishing individual writer identity
• Distinguishing their own ideas from others’
• Sound paraphrasing practices
Key findings

1. Students’ attitudes changed from concern to positivity
2. A literacy approach can assist students to develop citation practices, but educators need to recognise that it takes students time to master these skills
3. Turnitin can in some areas be used to improve students’ authorial voice
46 International Students
Academic integrity
Distinguishing your ideas (locating yourself) in an ethically responsible way.

Academic writing
Finding and planning your argument as the means of locating yourself in a community of scholars.

Referencing
Acknowledging others and differentiating yourself.
Ongoing resources – online and hardcopy

Academic integrity
- Workshop
- TLAs

Referencing
- Workshop
- TLAs
- Annotated bibliography
- Feedback
- 1-1 tutorial

Academic writing
- Series of workshops
- TLAs
- Essay draft plus final
- Feedback
- 1-1 tutorial
Paraphrasing (indirect quote)

Paraphrasing is when you reword a short section of writing into your own words. Paraphrasing is an important skill that demonstrates your ability to articulate an author’s idea or piece of evidence in your own words and in turn your understanding of the content. Paraphrasing is useful in supporting your argument with evidence rephrased in your own words. The idea is still the same as the original and must be correctly acknowledged.

Consider the following examples and note how in each example, the writer is acknowledging the original source of the idea.

Original text:

The "buy local" food movement argues that locally produced food is not only fresher, has a higher nutrient value and is better tasting, but it is also better for the environment due to shorter distances of transportation and less energy usage during production and transport. 10

Each of the examples below uses the citation in the footnote.

Paraphrase: author focused

In a recent article, Greubits, Lusk and Nayga 4 pointed to the growing trend toward buying fresh food from local growers and the increasing belief that doing so is more environmentally friendly.

Paraphrase: idea focused

Consumer’s buying trends in terms of fresh food may continue to be influenced by an increased awareness of environmental concerns and the idea that buying locally is better. 4

Paraphrasing: Turnitin

Turnitin matches your text with all the sources in its database. When assessing similarities it looks for a significant match of more than a few words. Common phrases are generally ignored. While it is not an absolute guarantee that Turnitin will be able to match all the text that you use (as some texts are not available online), it can be very helpful at showing whether you have correctly paraphrased.

Direct quote

A direct quote is text copied straight from the original work. Quotes are most effective when they are used sparingly to demonstrate the essence of an author’s argument. However the quote should not be allowed to speak for itself. As a writer you should demonstrate your understanding of what the quote means and its relevance to your argument. It is generally better to rephrase or summarise the idea into your own words as this better displays your critical engagement. If you do choose to quote you must acknowledge the original.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Acknowledgement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct quote: author focused</td>
<td>According to Greubits, Lusk and Nayga, “The “buy local” food movement argues that locally produced food is not only fresher, has a higher nutrient value and is better tasting, but it is also better for the environment due to shorter distances of transportation and less energy usage during production and transport.” 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct quote: idea focused</td>
<td>There is a growing movement toward buying local that “argues that locally produced food is not only fresher, has a higher nutrient value and is better tasting, but it is also better for the environment due to shorter distances of transportation and less energy usage during production and transport.” 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Direct quote: Turnitin

When you submit your work through Turnitin, direct quotes will be matched if they are on the existing Turnitin database. Turnitin will highlight the individual quote and you will be able to check the original source and ensure that you have acknowledged it according to the referencing system you are using. The example below shows you what a quote would look like in a Turnitin report.

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Have Senior antioxidants in potatoes, zucchini and pineapple with oranges containing slightly more (Cunningham, Milligan, & Trevisan, 2004, pp. 10-13). Overall, in terms of common vitamins
- Publication

Yim Tong Szeto. “Total antioxidant and ascorbic acid content of fresh fruits an...
The example below shows a writer’s attempt at paraphrasing the above information. Turnitin has identified a match. The original source has been revealed and you can see how the writing closely resembles the original article. Although the writer has included a reference, this is an indication to this writer that they should rephrase this sentence as the words and phrasing are too close to the original.

Below is another attempt at paraphrasing the same text. This time the text is almost identical to the original and there is no reference. The writer could choose to turn this into a direct quote with a reference or more carefully paraphrase the writing.
### Exercise 5.3

Have a look at the samples from a Turnitin originality report below. The report highlights where the text matches the original source. What would the author need to do to show academic integrity?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples from a Turnitin originality report</th>
<th>What would the author need to do to show academic integrity?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apples are widely known to have great health benefits. Many beneficial health effects are thought to result from eating apples; however, two forms of allergies are seen to various proteins found in the fruit. These allergies include...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean Girls is a film in which a number of characters are shown eating apples. While the film remains a relevant pop-cultural reference point and a go-to source of shorthand for female and human dynamics, the representations of the characters’ diets are overlooked in many analyses (Angelo 2014).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prior understanding of academic integrity

- Good: 42%
- Rudimentary: 33%
- Little or none: 25%
Concerned about plagiarising

83%
Had good prior experience with Turnitin
Now understand academic integrity
Turnitin has helped me understand
Turnitin helps my writing
Activities were effective
Not concerned about plagiarism

Strongly agree
Agree
Neutral
Disagree
Strongly disagree
Positive experience using Turnitin over the semester

95%
Analysis of text matches in originality reports

Annotated bibliography
- References: 45%
- Neutral Items: 25%
- Quoting: 28%
- Insufficient Paraphrasing: 1%
- Misquoting: 1%

Draft essay
- References: 56%
- Neutral Items: 24%
- Quoting: 5%
- Insufficient Paraphrasing: 11%
- Misquoting: 4%

Final essay
- References: 63%
- Neutral Items: 21%
- Quoting: 3%
- Insufficient Paraphrasing: 9%
- Misquoting: 4%
The Pacific small islands developing “states are places where children are nurtured in body and mind, environment invite learning and leisure, people work and age with dignity, the ecologic balance is a source of pride and the ocean is protected” (WHO 2001). Communities knowledge and understanding of the health impacts of climate change will continue to impact our health if governments do not pay particular attention. I conquer that understanding of the health impacts of climate change through adaptation planning and awareness will strengthen the Pacific’s...
Educators could consider:

1. Ongoing support, advice and active learning resources
2. Embedding Turnitin within ALL teaching
3. Low-stakes scaffolded activities
4. Training for staff and students on interpreting matches
5. Using Turnitin to develop authorial voice
A literacy approach to using Turnitin
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Behaviour problems in cats</th>
<th>How will this relate to my report question about cats’ play-aggression?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Aggression in play and in petting were the main causes of aggressive behaviour towards humans.</td>
<td>Should I focus on outdoor cats vs indoor cats?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author’s argument/s</td>
<td>A lot of factors contribute to behaviour problems. Outdoor cats, Persian breed cats, non-neutered female cats have highest levels of aggression.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How could you write these topic sentences to state your argument?

1. The term economic growth refers to “the growth of national income, or the output of goods and services per head of population, with output conventionally measured by the Gross National Product (GNP)” or Gross Domestic Production (GDP) (Scott and
Thank you!