# Suggested Turnitin Orientation Exercise

Turnitin is a new feature for both students and instructors at CapU. Conducting a practice assignment during one of your classes may be helpful for both you and your students.

Purpose: develop familiarity with the settings, reading and interpretating the Similarity Report.

The exercise should take approximately 20 – 30 mins. You may wish to prepare students prior to the class, i.e., suggesting that they bring a laptop to class if possible.

| **Activity** | **Learning Point** |
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| **IN ADVANCE OF THE CLASS:** | |
| Set up a “test” Assignment on your course eLearn (set the grade to “0”).  Use the Turnitin settings that you will use for all your assignments. | This will help both you and your students know what to expect from a “real” Assignment. |
| **DURING THE CLASS:** | |
| Ask students to create a Word document and write 2 short paragraphs about their hometown:   * Paragraph 1: Instruct students to introduce their hometown. Copy and paste the first paragraph from their hometown’s Wikipedia page into their Word document. * Paragraph 2: Instruct students to explain why they think you should visit their hometown and/or why they love their hometown. | Will demonstrate what a match looks like in the Similarity Report  Will demonstrate what “writing in your own words” looks like on the Similarity Report |
| Instruct students to upload their Word document to the Assignment dropbox on eLearn | Practice/familiarity   * no need to do anything “new” to what they’ve been doing previously on eLearn * Will see what to expect after the assignment is submitted |
| Instruct students to click on the Similarity Report result (coloured box with percentage) | Practice/familiarity   * Length of time it takes to generate a Similarity Report * Opens new webpage   Figure out if their cookie settings on their browser will block Similarity Report |
| Instruct students to click on the coloured number on the right column of the Similarity Report.  You may wish to explain:   * That the Report is illustrating similarity rather than plagiarism * As the instructor receiving this report, you would look at the source to understand why there is a similarity and then determine whether plagiarism is likely to have occurred. * As the student, they would want to review the report and revise their submission to address plagiarism issues. BUT, there are reasons when similarity is acceptable, e.g. quotations. | Will demonstrate details of Similarity Report |
| Instruct students to click on one of the sources displayed in the right column | Will demonstrate the ability to compare their paper with the similar content |
| Instruct students to click on the “compare side-by-side” icon. | Will demonstrate the ability to compare their paper with the similar content |
| Discuss with students, ways of “fixing” the Similarity Report, e.g.   * Providing an intext citation and reference in a Bibliography * Using quotation marks * Rewriting in their own words, i.e. researching content from several sources and writing an introduction to their hometown in their own words |  |
| **FOR HOMEWORK** *(this activity can be done during the class, but the exercise will take longer than the estimated 20-30mins)*: | |
| Ask students to rewrite the first paragraph (introducing their hometown) and resubmit.  Ask students to review the new Similarity Report.  *(not for grading or for grades)* | Will demonstrate to students what writing in their own words should be. |