

Plagiarism Detection Tool *Ouriginal* Guide

The University of Toronto [has adopted Ouriginal](#) as the school's new plagiarism detection tool, replacing Turnitin. That means that if you want to include plagiarism detection in your assignments, *you must use Ouriginal*. Although you will still see Turnitin as an option for a short while during the Fall 2021 semester, this is for legacy purposes only and is not to be used.

Ouriginal works very similarly to Turnitin, and instructor workflow to set up Quercus assignments using Ouriginal has barely changed. However, there are some differences in settings. This document will include written and visual instructions on setting up an Ouriginal assignment, an explanation of Ouriginal's settings and settings recommendations, and instructions on retrieving and interpreting Ouriginal similarity reports.

Please note that if you plan to use Ouriginal in your course, or are even considering doing so, you *must* include the following paragraph, verbatim, in your syllabus:

“Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University’s plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool’s reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>)”.

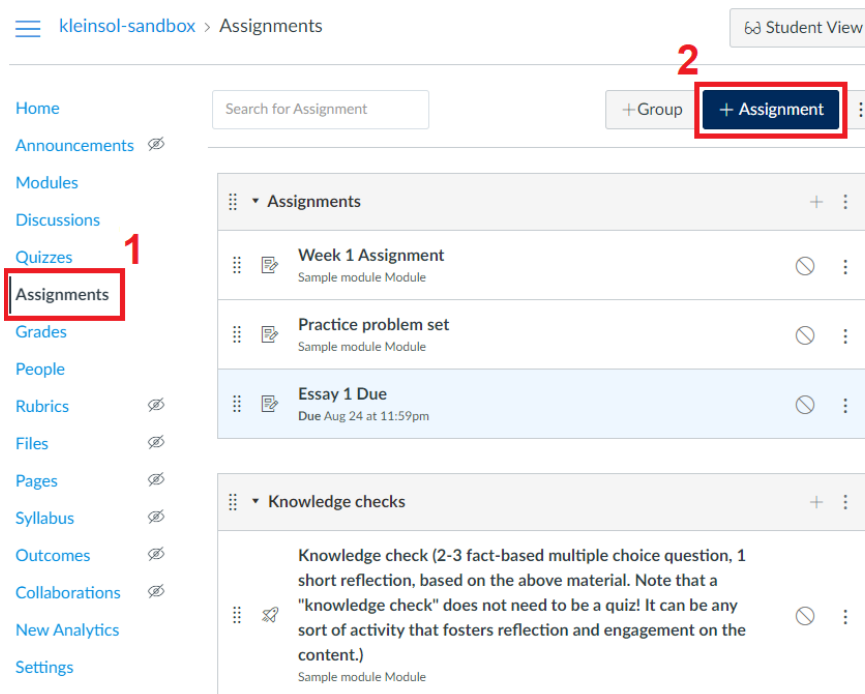
In addition to this document, Ouriginal held a demonstration session for U of T staff which outlines the functionality of the software. You can view a recording of this session [here](#).

Finally, it is important to remember that plagiarism detection tools *do not tell you whether a student has plagiarized* – rather, they are tools that flag text that the software considers similar to other sources in its database. It is up to the instructor to determine if a

student's submission requires further action. If you suspect an academic integrity violation, [please follow these steps from the Academic Integrity office](#).

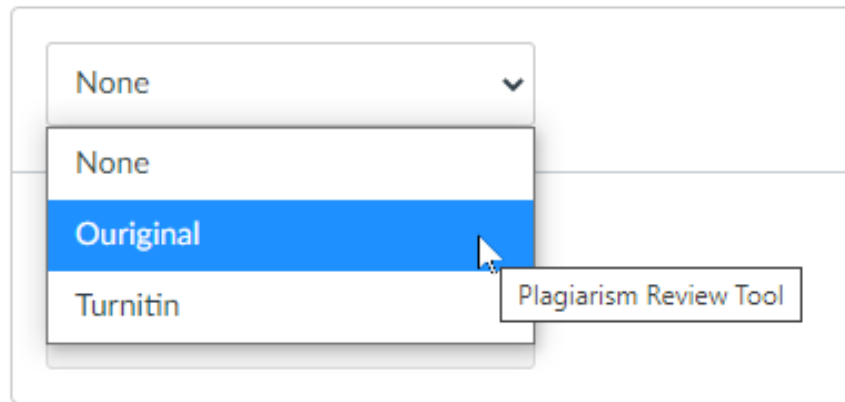
How to create an assignment using *Ouriginal* in Quercus:

- 1) In your Quercus course, create a new assignment by navigating to your Assignments section and clicking the blue “+Assignment” button.



- 2) In the assignment settings, under Plagiarism Review, click the dropdown menu and select **Ouriginal**. Note that the “Plagiarism Review” setting will only be available if you have selected “Online” under the Submission Type setting and then selected either “Text Entry” or “File Uploads” as options. The vast majority of assignments – essays, research papers, take-home exams, presentations – will be “File Uploads.”

Plagiarism Review



3) Some additional settings will appear once you select Ouriginal from the dropdown menu.

They are:

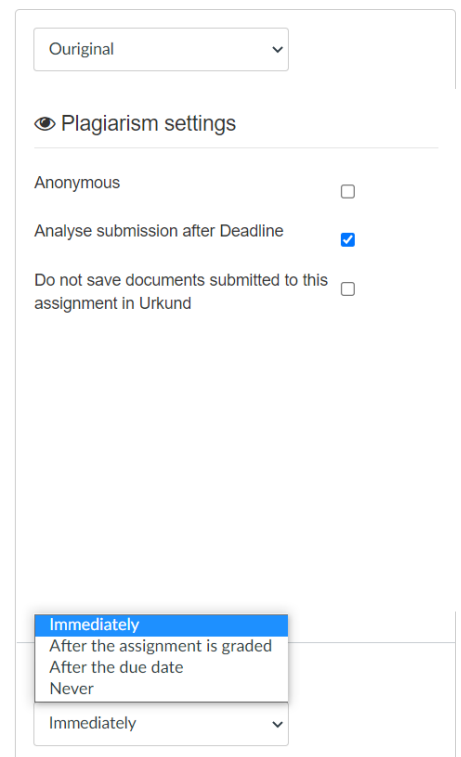
- a. **Anonymous:** anonymizes student information **in the Ouriginal database** (not for the instructor). This setting, even when unchecked, is enabled behind-the-scenes, so there's no need to worry about it.

- b. **Analyze submission after Deadline:** tells Ouriginal to *always* re-analyze submissions *again* at the due date of

the assignment. This ensures that submissions are compared against *both* the extensive Ouriginal repository *and* other submissions for the same assignment; therefore, I recommend **always selecting this option**.

- c. **Do not save documents submitted to this assignment in Urkund:** tells Ouriginal *not* to save submissions for this assignment in Ouriginal's database. This means that this semester's submissions will not be available for comparison with submissions to the same assignment in future semesters; therefore, I recommend

Plagiarism Review



Rotman | Digital

not selecting this option. (Note that “Urkund” is an old name for Ouriginal. I don’t know why it says Urkund and not Ouriginal.)

- d. **Show reports to students:** tells Quercus when and how often to make a similarity report available to students. This setting has four options:
 - i. **Immediately** (recommended): similarity reports will be available to students as soon as a given submission has been analyzed. This means that a student can read their similarity report and fix potential problems before you start grading and generate an improved final submission. For this reason, I recommend **always selecting this option**. Note that this setting interacts with the setting you’ve chosen under “Submission Attempts” (which I recommend you always leave on “Unlimited”) – if multiple submission attempts are allowed, students will get a new similarity report for each submission. As the instructor, you’ll always have access to *all* of a student’s submissions.
 - ii. **After the assignment is graded:** similarity reports will be available to students after you’ve submitted a grade for the submission to Quercus, regardless of due date.
 - iii. **After the due date:** similarity reports will be available to students once the due date and time passes, regardless of whether you’ve graded the submission.
 - iv. **Never:** similarity reports are kept hidden from students.
- 4) Once the rest of the assignment is set up to your liking, click either “Save” or “Save & Publish,” depending on whether you are ready for your students to see the assignment.

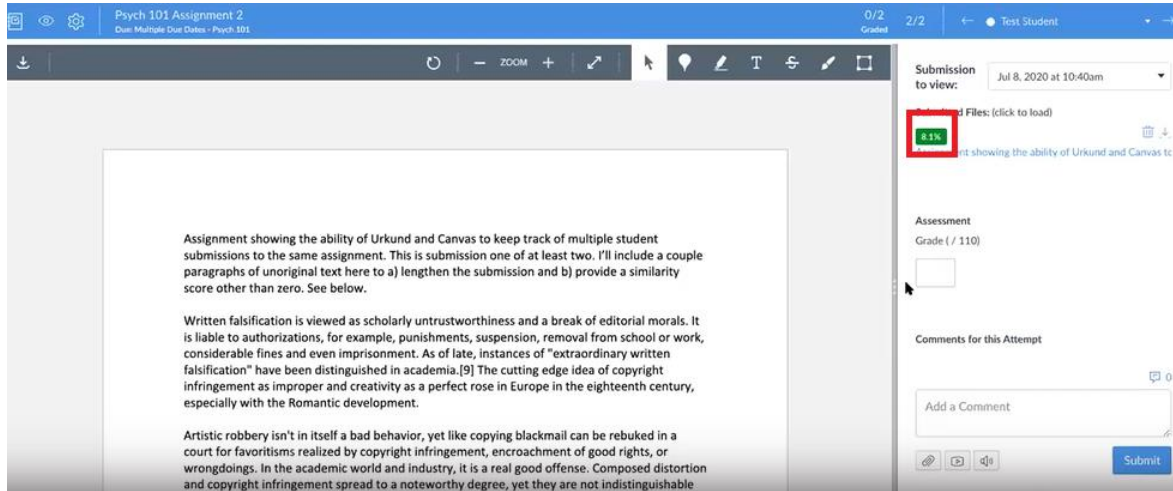
How to view and interpret similarity reports

Rotman | Digital

First, you can get an overview of your classes' similarity scores by going to your course's Grades section. A coloured flag with a percentage will appear next to each student's grade. These numbers only give you a general idea of how much similarity Ouriginal found between the submission and its database (and other students' submissions). For a more detailed look, you will need to access the full **similarity report**. Please note that Ouriginal provides a complete guide to their similarity reports, which be viewed as a PDF [here](#). To access the Ouriginal similarity report for a given student submission:

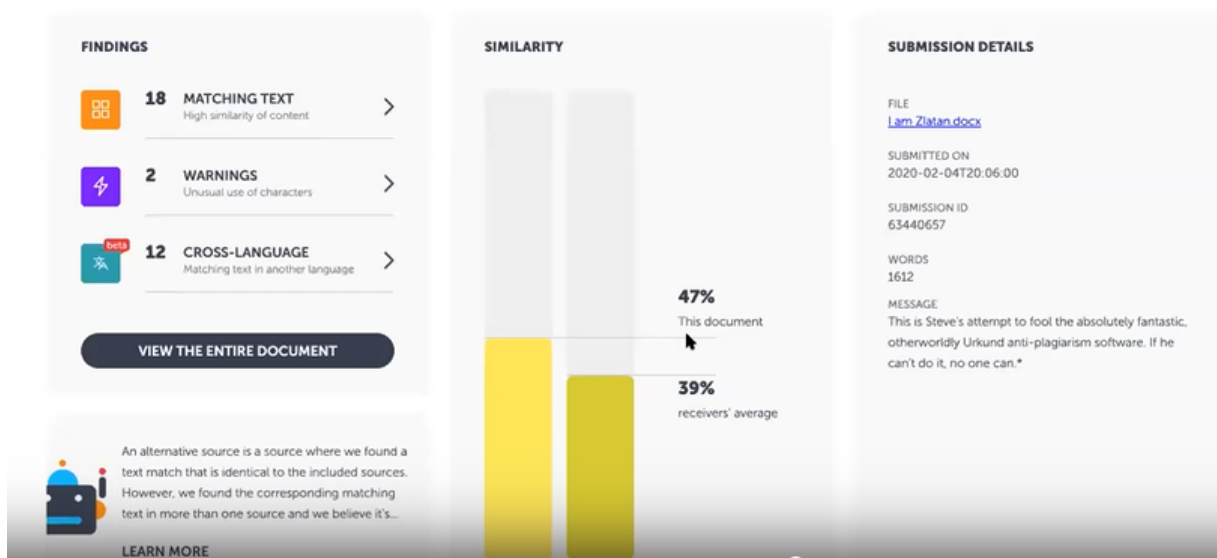
Rotman | Digital

- 1) [Go to the SpeedGrader](#) for the assignment in question (instructions at the link).
- 2) Click the coloured flag in the right-hand panel of the SpeedGrader:



(Image credit: Ouriginal)

- 3) The similarity report for that student's submission opens in a new tab. The report shows (1) submission details (e.g. filename, submission time, word count), (2) a similarity score graph comparing the submission's score to the average score for all submissions to this assignment, and (3) a summary of similarity findings and a button to view the document:



(Image credit: Ouriginal)

Rotman | Digital

To see more detail on the similarity findings, click the “view the entire document” button.

- 4) When viewing the document, sections of the text that have been flagged as potentially problematic will be highlighted. Clicking on the text will show a side-by-side comparison of the text in the student submission and the similar text from a source in the Ouriginal database, with a percentage match specific to the passage in question. You can choose to exclude passages from the similarity report on a case-by-case basis by toggling the “Include in analysis” switch. You can also see a complete list of sources that the Ouriginal software has found to contain similarities to the student submission by clicking the “Sources” tab near the top of the page. Each source will have a corresponding percentage indicating how similar the source and the submission are. Ouriginal is also capable of detecting some strategies that students may use to circumvent plagiarism detection software, such as replacing letters with similar-looking characters or pulling wording from sources in other languages and running them through translation software.
- 5) If you would like to export a copy of the similarity report to your device, you can click the “Download” icon near the top-right of the page. You can also get a “tour” of the similarity report by clicking the question mark icon:



(Image credit: Ouriginal)

Use with permission of Munk School of Global Affairs