Navigating the Similarity Report

Let’s take a look

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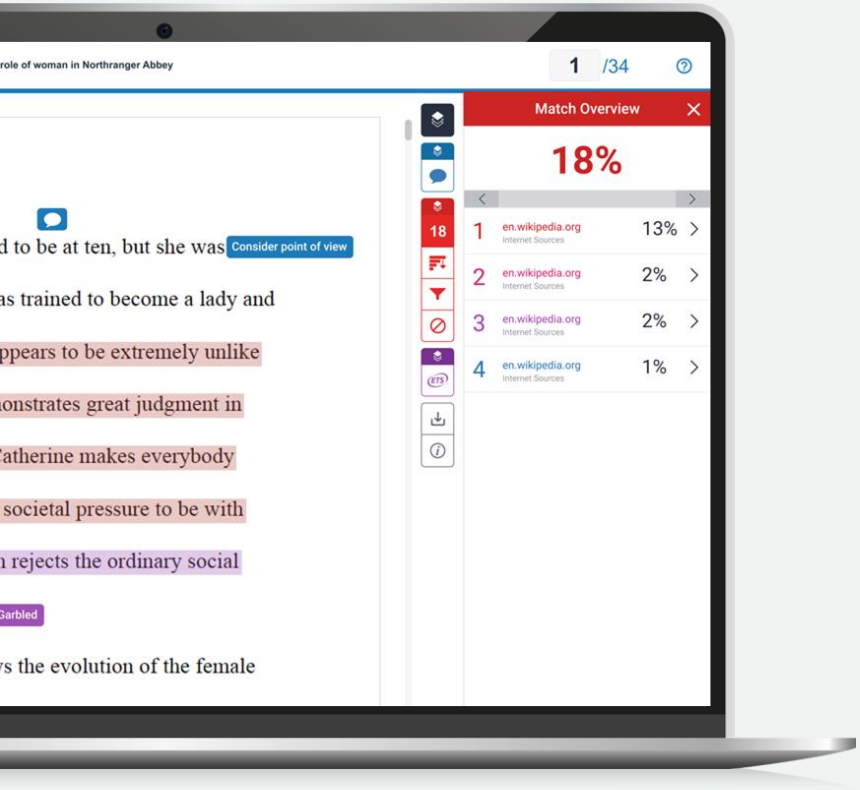

Review all matching sources

The sidebar shows the Match Overview. This is where you can find the similarity score for your paper.

It is perfectly natural for an assignment to match against sources in our database. If you've used quotes and referenced correctly, there will be instances where we will find a match and that is totally OK!

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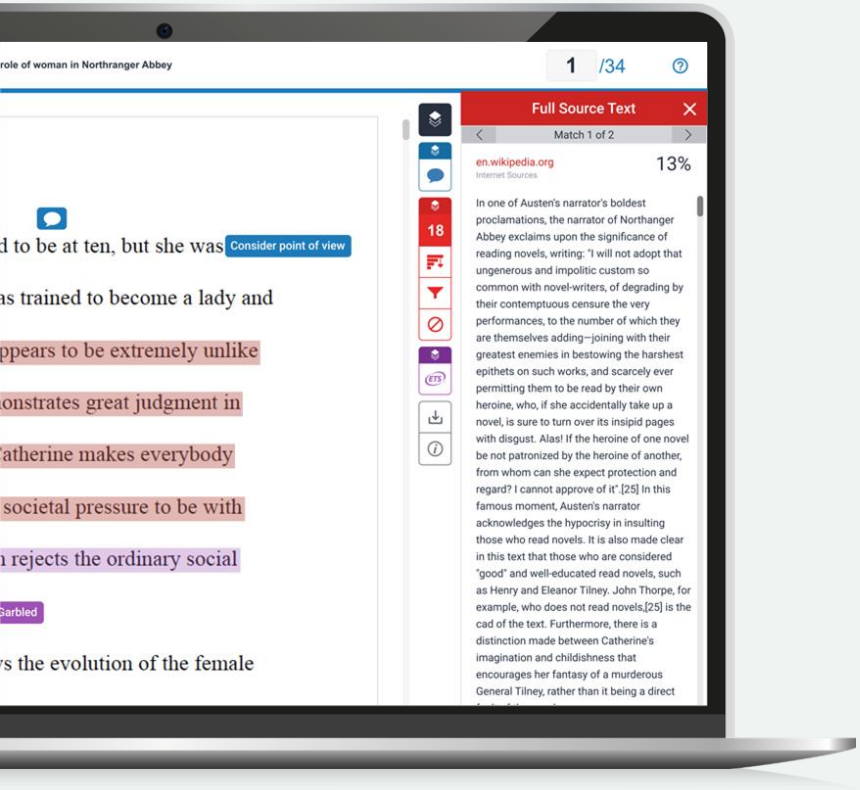

Explore matches in more detail

Easily scroll through multiple matches of a source (e.g. wikipedia.org). Each match is color-coded to help you easily identify where they're located in the paper.

See a preview of the matching text along with the source url, which can be opened in-browser.

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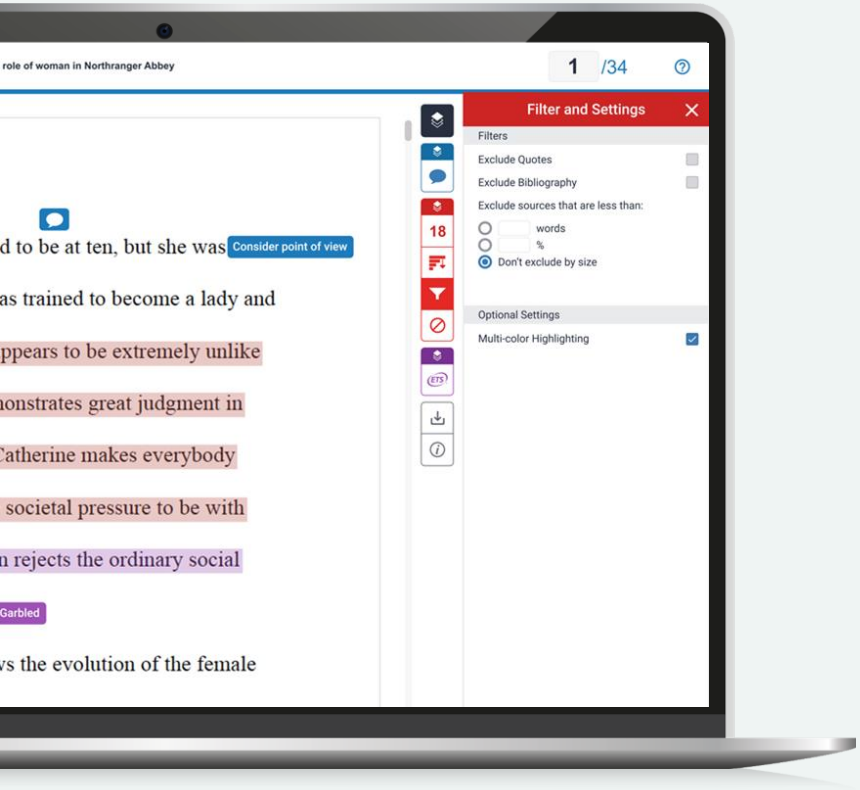

Exclude unwanted content

You can also use filters to focus in on certain matches to understand where the similarity is occurring.

Exclude bibliography sections or text in quotes that Turnitin has detected and see how that impacts your similarity score.

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Interpreting the Similarity Report

Let’s take a look

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What should I do if my score is too high?

This means that **too much of your paper comes from other sources**. Consider the following to lower your similarity score:

- Balance the information that you use from texts with your own writing.
- Determine when it would be most appropriate to paraphrase, summarize, or explain an idea in your own words.
- Properly cite each source that your reference.

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What should I do if my score is too low?

This means that **too little of your paper comes from other sources.** Consider the following to lower your similarity score:

- Balance your own writing with the information that you use from other sources.
- Determine when it would be most appropriate to quote directly from a source or paraphrase information to add research-based support for your claim.
- Properly cite each source that you reference.

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What should I do if large sections of my paper come from a source?

This means that **too much of your paper comes from other sources.** Consider the following:

- Include your own words in your writing where necessary.
- Select only the most important part of each quote, rather than including an entire paragraph that includes extraneous information.
- Explain each quote that you reference, offering an analysis of how it applies to your claim.

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What should I do if large sections of my paper are only my words?

This means that **too little of your paper comes from other sources.** Consider the following:

- Include research-based information that can support your claim.
- Properly cite each source that you reference.

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