Introduction
Turnitin is a plagiarism prevention system available through Blackboard. All you need is Internet access and a Blackboard account to use the system. Students’ papers are checked by Turnitin’s in-house copy of the Internet (including public Internet, ProQuest, Periodical Abstracts, Business Dateline, and ABI Inform) and millions of submitted papers to Turnitin.

Students submit papers up to 10MB in one of the following formats MS Word, WordPerfect, PDF, rtf, txt, HTML, and PostScript through a Turnitin assignment created in Blackboard. The papers are immediately checked for plagiarism. A detailed report is available for the instructor to view. You may also make the report available for the student to review. Any text found to be unoriginal is underlined, color-coded and linked to its original source. The report also includes the percentage of the paper that appears to be plagiarized and provides a tab with all matching sources in the paper.

Syllabus Statement
You should notify students that you may use plagiarism detection software for their assignments. Here is an example of a statement you may want to include in your syllabus:

Bloomsburg University is committed to the fundamental values of preserving academic honesty as defined in the Student Handbook (PRP-3512). Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on Turnitin’s website.

3 Step Process

Step 1: Create the Turnitin Assignment in Bb
This is very similar to creating an Assignment in Bb. You have the option of the content area you want to place the assignment. Select Turnitin Assignment using the pull down menu. Don’t forget to click Go to the right of Turnitin Assignment!

Remember: You can decide if you want the students to see their Originality Reports (a good learning tool on how to cite correctly).

Step 2: Submit Papers
You have the option of allowing your students to submit their own papers or you can submit papers. If you want all of your students to submit their papers, let them do self-submission. If you just want to check one student’s paper, then you can submit it.

Step 3: View Originality Report
Within a few minutes of the student submission you can view the report. Reports are accessed from a link in the Control Panel of Blackboard called “Turnitin Assignments” in the Course Tools box.

Note: This report is a tool to help you find sources that contain text similar to submitted papers. You must make the decision to deem a work plagiarized after careful examination of both the submitted paper and suspect sources.

Reminder: The Grademark tool is not available. If you want to make comments on a paper, you will need to download the paper to your computer and then upload back to the student through Bb.