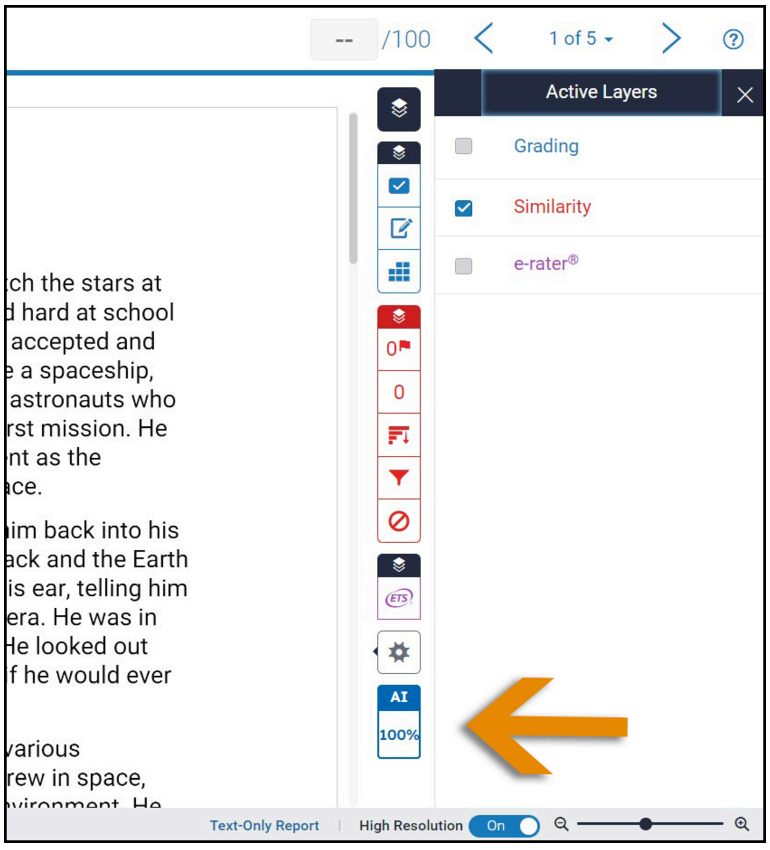
Turnitin Update

Release of the AI Writing Detector

In early April 2023, Turnitin incorporated an AI writing detector into the Feedback Studio + Originality platform used here at SUNY New Paltz. Now, when you enable Turnitin on a Brightspace assignment, student papers will be checked for the presence of AI writing in addition to checking for text originality.

Using the AI Writing Detector

The AI detector is an automatic feature that does not need to be enabled and the AI detector indicator will appear at the bottom of the Feedback Studio dashboard (the screenshot below points out the location of the indicator). The AI indicator cannot be turned off, but is only visible to faculty; no AI indicator will appear for students as they review their submissions.



Reliability and False Positives

Turnitin claims a 98% confidence rate in its ability to detect AI writing, but as a faculty member, it is important to keep in mind the following:

- **Turnitin acknowledges that a 1% chance of false positives is possible**. In some initial testing done by the Office of Instructional Technology we did experience some false positive results on original writing samples.

- Some of the signals that something might be written by AI are also commonly seen in the work of struggling students, thereby generating false positives:
    - Short, simple sentences that lack complexity
    - Repetition of keywords as filler
    - Lack of complex analysis
    - Inaccurate data and mistakes
- Unlike the Turnitin originality report which shows the original sources in cases of suspected plagiarism, results returned by the AI detection tool cannot be verified.

For these reasons, Turnitin stresses that the tool should only be used to initiate a conversation with a student whose paper - in whole or in part - has been flagged as containing AI writing, and should not be the basis for an accusation of cheating.

Limitations of the AI Detection Tool

The **AI detection tool only works under certain conditions**, so submissions must adhere to the following parameters:

- Submission must have been made after April 4, 2023
- Submissions must be prose only
- File size must be less than 100MB
- File must have at least 150 words
- File must not exceed 15,000 words
- File must be written in English
- File type must be .docx, .pdf, .txt, or .rtf

Further AI Writing Resources

You can view more information about the **Turnitin AI Writing Detection tool** on the Turnitin.com website.

For additional resources on ChatGPT and AI writing detection, also check out the "ChatGPT & AI Powered Tools: Resources" section of the **Faculty Development Center website**. Also, be on the watch for further community conversations around this topic.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the addition of this new Turnitin feature, please submit a **Brightspace Support Ticket** and an Office of Instructional Technology staff member will respond.

New Paltz
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Subscribe to our email list.