



Blackboard Tips & Tricks

Instructor Use of Turnitin's GradeMark

1. GradeMark is an online grading tool located within the Turnitin product suite. In order to use GradeMark, instructors **must first create a Turnitin Assignment**. Instructors can configure Originality Reporting (plagiarism detection) for student papers when the Turnitin assignment is created.

An important setting in the Turnitin assignment is the "Post Date." That setting determines when students will be able to access the GradeMark portion(s) of the Turnitin assignment. The "Due Date" lets students know when to submit the assignment. Instructors should not begin grading papers with GradeMark until *after* the Turnitin due date.

2. If students are submitting papers, instructions for the Turnitin assignment should clearly indicate that papers must be **double spaced** in order to allow adequate room for instructors to apply GradeMark comments and marks as well as for both instructors and students to be able read them. In addition students should be advised remove their name and other personally identifying information if: 1) the paper will be submitted to the global Turnitin student paper repository and/or 2) the paper will also be used for a PeerMark assignment where the review is supposed to be anonymous from the peer reviewer's perspective.

3. While GradeMark itself does not analyze or identify spelling, grammatical, or citation style errors, if e-rater has been enabled during the Turnitin assignment creation process, e-rater *will* analyze spelling and grammar. All e-rater generated feedback appears in lavender within GradeMark. The e-rater analysis is not available to students until after the "Post Date" set at the time the Turnitin assignment is created. Instructors may delete e-rater feedback by mousing over a tag and selecting "Dismiss." Additional feedback may also be added to an e-rater tag by mousing over the tag, clicking on "Add comment," and typing text in the box that opens.

4. GradeMark provides a variety of tools for marking up student work from standard QuickMark sets to bubble comments and inline textual comments. In addition, instructors can create and attach a rubric to an assignment. Use of the rubric scorecard during grading automates the calculation of a grade for the assignment.

5. Turnitin is unavailable during bi-monthly maintenance times the first and third Saturdays of the month from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

If you have checked all of the above and still have questions, contact Information Technology Services by phone at 618-650-5500 or by email at ftc_help@siue.edu.