Some Items to Remember (for Instructors, Teaching Assistants and Students):

- The originality report just shows where the student submission is similar to other available sources. The score does not indicate plagiarism, as identifying plagiarism is an academic judgment and interpretive act. The originality score is just an indication of where to look for plagiarism.

- Students need to know that they are not aiming for a specific score on the originality report. Details of originality reports can assist students in checking on how they have used reference and quotations and whether these have been executed appropriately. Students may need additional instructions to know how to include the ideas and/or words of others in their own work appropriately, and how to use quotation marks, page numbers, author name and date, etc. They may also need to learn how to paraphrase sources properly.

- The particular type of assignment, or even the use of many quotations, may lead to high similarity scores. These may or may not be proper practice for the type of assignment given and instructor expectations, but this does not necessarily mean that plagiarism and/or copying have occurred.

- The originality score is based on the availability of data to Turnitin. Even if a student gets a low score (or 0%), this does not mean that plagiarism has not taken place. The source just may not be available to Turnitin.

- Authenticity of authorship is not tested by Turnitin. A paper might be an original piece of work but one not authored by the student who submitted the work.

- In this pilot project, students are to be given the opportunity to upload draft versions of a paper to Turnitin before submitting the final copy to the course Dropbox. They will need to be reminded about the priority sequence feature of Turnitin. That is, the greater the number of times that a student submits his or her paper to check originality, the greater the length of time required to receive feedback in the form of the next originality report. The turn-around time can take as much as 24 hours, something that needs to be taken into consideration in planning and completing papers by the required due date.

- Turnitin is only useful tool for students if they use it! Having only a final due date for an assignment may not allow students sufficient time to examine and address issues identified by Turnitin. Instructors need to consider also specifying an earlier deadline for an assignment draft, which does not necessarily need to be graded, but which will provide useful feedback for students in preparing their final version for grading.