TurnItIn and BlackBoard

TurnItIn is a powerful product for plagiarism detection. It is possible to submit a student’s work, in a variety of formats, and that work will be compared to documents on the Internet and in the TurnItIn database. If a student has extracted information from a web page, or has submitted a document which resembles another document that has been submitted (by any student from any college), TurnItIn will find the matching documents and give their source.

Ordinarily, the use of TurnItIn requires faculty to go to the TurnItIn web site and create a course, then have the students go to the web site and register themselves. Students would then submit their papers at the TurnItIn web site and faculty would go to that site to get the results.

Queens College has purchased a plug-in for BlackBoard that connects the two systems. This means that faculty and students do not have to do any extra work in setting up an account with TurnItIn, and there is no separate step to submit papers or review the results at the TurnItIn web site. Everything now runs through BlackBoard.

To create a “TurnItIn Assignment,” the control panel is used in a manner similar to creating a regular assignment. To view submissions through TurnItIn, a new link is available in the control panel.

This document describes the process through which a faculty member can create a TurnItIn assignment, how the student submits a paper through BlackBoard into TurnItIn, and how the faculty member then sees the results.
1. To add a TurnItIn assignment to your course, start at the control panel. In this case, we choose to add the assignment under “Assignments,” though it could be added anywhere.

2. Although it is not necessary to put this assignment in a folder, here we create a new folder under assignments.
3. We enter the name of the folder, and in the text box a brief description of what is in it.

4. Now we are ready to add the TurnItIn Assignment. There is a new choice under “Learning Units” called “Turnitin Assignment”. Scroll down and choose it, then click “GO”.

5. Enter appropriate information for the Assignment Title and description, and click Submit.

6. There is currently a bug with the availability setting for the TurnItIn assignment. Note that the screen says the item is no longer available. We can fix this by advancing the “Display Until” date.
7. The Display (or “Dispay,” as the plug-in currently says) month is the same as the month it was created (here, September). Advancing the date to December should take care of the problem.

8. Now the assignment is ready for the students to use.
9. Here is an example where a student has logged into BlackBoard and is viewing the course that has the TurnItIn assignment. The student will click on “Assignments” and the “Midterm Paper” folder.

10. The student simply clicks on the “View/Complete” link (the same as if it were a regular Bb assignment.)
11. The student provides first name, last name, title of paper and browses the file system to find the file that contains the paper.

Note that TurnItIn accepts MSWord, WordPerfect, PostScript, PDF, HTML, RTF and plain text. The minimum file size is 100 characters, the maximum is 10MB.
12. The student has selected the paper, and simply clicks “Submit.”

And the paper is accepted.
13. Here were are back at the instructor’s course. To view the results of the TurnItIn processing of the paper, note that there is a new feature in the Control Panel under Course Tools called TurnItIn Assignments. Click on it.
14. Here is the TurnItIn assignment (“Midterm Paper”) that we originally put in the course, and to which the student has submitted a paper. Click “View.”
15. We see the paper that Chris Smith submitted.

The “99%” under “Originality Score Report” indicates that 99% of the paper matched items found in the TurnItIn database (1% is original work). Clicking on the “99%” link leads to the report itself.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name (Last, First)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Originality Score Report</th>
<th>File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Chris</td>
<td>midterm paper</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16. Here is the Originality Report.

Further on in this document, there is unoriginal material at source 2.