

# Re-engineering Assessment Practices in Higher Education

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## Software to Support Peer Review

### Software for Peer Review

#### PeerMark (part of TURNITIN)

##### Peer Reviewing

*“ Save class time for teaching and leverage the web for pedagogically sound peer reviews. PeerMark “allows students to give and receive feedback from their classmates’ papers. Instructors can easily create a peer review assignment with specific topic and metric questions and distribute chosen number of papers evenly and automatically to all students in a class. PeerMark fills an important step in the writing process; one that allows students to have an audience who will read their papers, and give and receive critical feedback for composing their next draft. Instructors have commented that students write better essays when they know their peers will be reading them: we call it the ‘Peer Factor’”*

[This text has been copied from a Turnitin Publicity document entitled Experience the “Peer Factor” with Web-Based Peer Reviewing available at [http://turnitin.com/resources/documentation/turnitin/sales/Peer\\_Review\\_one\\_page.pdf](http://turnitin.com/resources/documentation/turnitin/sales/Peer_Review_one_page.pdf) ]

**PeerMark** allows students to read, evaluate, mark and provide feedback on assignments submitted by classmates. The software allows distribution of the assignments and for evaluation and redistribution so that students can read the comments. The assignments may be anonymous or attributed. PeerMark offers reasonable flexibility with tutor management of student groupings and number of reviews, scheduling of tasks (e.g. submission, review), rubrics for reviews (free response, scale responses) and methods of paper distribution (i.e. automatically by the turnitin system, manually by the instructor and self-selected by the student or a mixture). Importantly reviewer comments can be added to the actual paper with this software and there are standard editing marks embedded in the system.

Turnitin site showing three tools – plagiarism detection, PeerMark and GradeMark

<http://turnitin.com/static/products.html>

Student user manual for PeerMark

[http://www.turnitin.com/resources/documentation/turnitin/training/Student\\_Chapter\\_3\\_PeerMark.pdf](http://www.turnitin.com/resources/documentation/turnitin/training/Student_Chapter_3_PeerMark.pdf)

See also Instructor User Manual for PeerMark

[http://www.turnitin.com/static/training\\_support/tii\\_instructor\\_guide.pdf](http://www.turnitin.com/static/training_support/tii_instructor_guide.pdf)

### Commentary

PeerMark is fairly sophisticated and is part of a suite of tools provided by Turnitin. These include plagiarism detection called OriginalityCheck and GradeMark (a tool to help tutors provide comments and mark students' assignments) as well as PeerMark.

The Turnitin plagiarism software is widely used in the UK in HE and FE and this might make other tools from the same supplier attractive. Also, one of the issues with peer reviewing is the danger that students might copy each other's work. While there are other ways to avoid this scenario the ability to use Turnitin's plagiarism detection alongside a PeerMark might be attractive to many institutions.

The main downside of Turnitin's PeerMark is that it is not free and it is not open source. A positive is that like OriginalityCheck integration with major Learning Management Systems is probably relatively easy [Need to check this out]