grammarly

Grammarly Authorship: Detailed FAQs for Educational Institutions
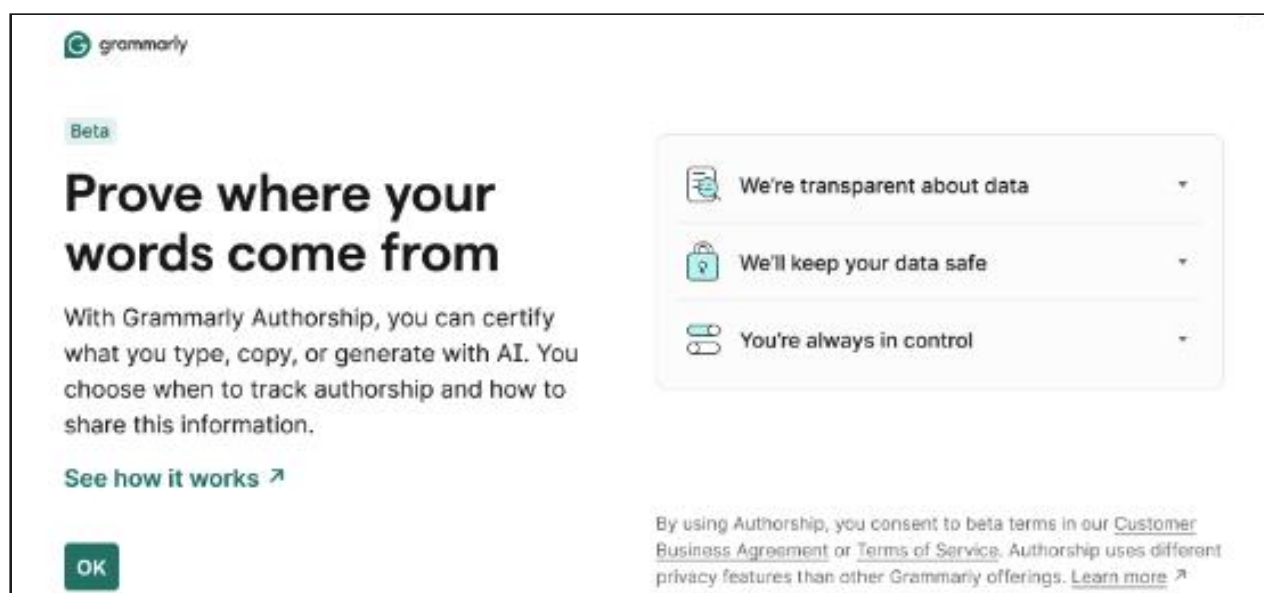
→ Track writing activity
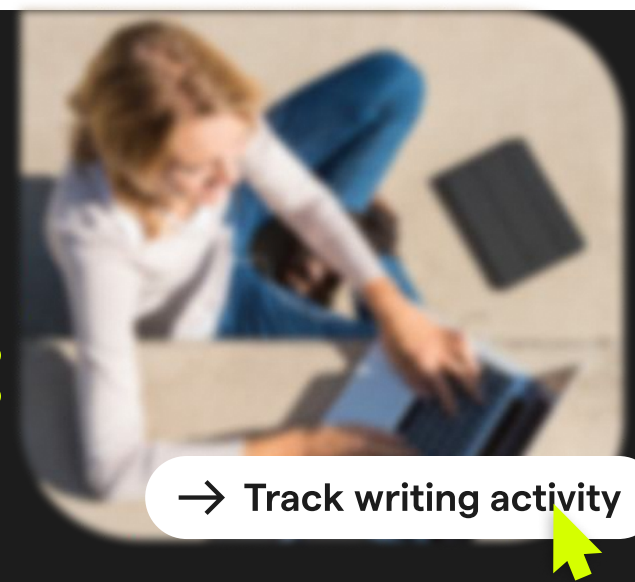
Overview:
Grammarly Authorship is designed to foster more transparency between students and faculty in the writing process. While Authorship is an end user-facing feature only during the initial beta phase, Grammarly believes that institutional awareness and support will be critical in ensuring Authorship is used as a valuable instructional tool. This FAQ document is meant for administrators and faculty members to understand how Authorship works and address initial questions that students and faculty may have before using the feature.

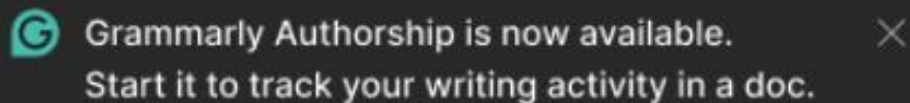**How do students enable Grammarly Authorship?**
Users must have the Grammarly extension installed and running on Chrome or Edge browsers (Firefox and Safari to come in later 2024). Once a student opens a blank Google Doc, they will automatically see a modal asking them to enable Authorship.
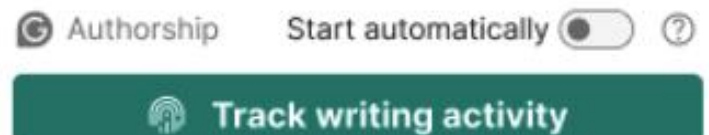

After clicking "Ok" or closing out the modal, a green Thumbprint icon will be illuminated in the bottom-left of the Google Doc screen.

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Grammarly Authorship is now available.
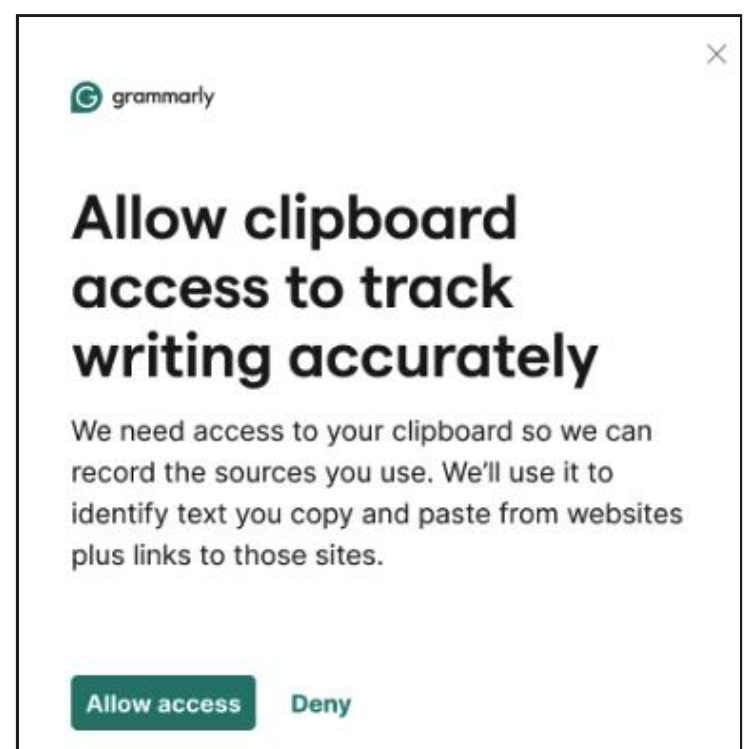Start it to track your writing activity in a doc.

Authorship   Start automatically
🔍 Track writing activity

Students have the option to click the "Track writing activity" button to turn on Authorship tracking for that single document session *or* can take no action, in which case nothing is tracked.

Students can select the "Start automatically" option in the widget menu to have tracking start automatically when a new Google Doc is opened. This makes it easy to generate reports categorizing text sources. If users only enable tracking for the current document, they will need to turn it on individually from the "thumbprint" icon at the bottom-left of the document each time.
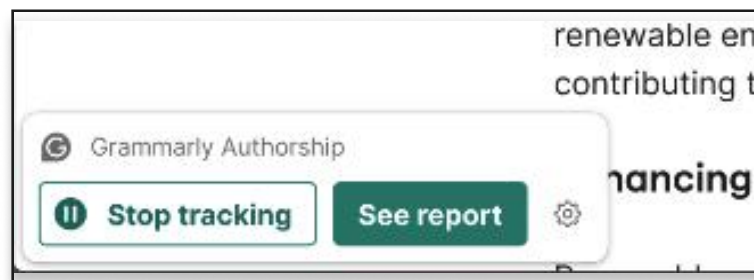
How does Grammarly know where the text comes from?

To use Grammarly's Authorship feature, it needs access to your clipboard to differentiate between different sources of text. This access helps Grammarly differentiate between text from general AI sources like ChatGPT or Claude and text from traditional online sources like Wikipedia. Without clipboard access, it can still document typing actions and actions taken within the document but won't be able to attribute pasted text in more detail beyond "copied from an unknown source."

Allow clipboard access to track writing accurately

We need access to your clipboard so we can record the sources you use. We'll use it to identify text you copy and paste from websites plus links to those sites.

Allow access   Deny

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How do students know that Grammarly Authorship is recording activity in a document?

Students are always in control whether Grammarly Authorship records the writing activity. When activity is being tracked, students will see a "Stop tracking" button that allows them to end the tracking.

How do students view their Authorship report?

When a student is ready to view their report, they can click the thumbprint icon at the bottom-left of their screen and click "see report." There are three different sets of information available:

1. **Authorship Analytics** shows a breakdown of text sources, organized by "human-typed" and "sourced" categories, along with data about the amount of time spent on the document and the number of active writing sessions.
2. **Authorship Report** includes the full body of text, color-coded by text category, along with details about the text source.
3. **Authorship Replay** shows full typing and editing history from start to finish. The replay is meant to help the student remember primary actions as the document came to life.

At the top of the report, there is a green "Share" button. Students will see a unique URL they can copy and share with faculty members. Faculty will only be able to see all of the same information the student sees in the report.

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What content is attributed?
Any text from a browser-based source where Grammarly is available will be attributed. Text from a generative AI tool, academic article, periodical, and more all qualify.

Share report ✕

Anyone with the link can see this report. You can deactivate the link any time so only you can see it.

☑ Include writing replay
Anyone with the link can watch a replay of your writing activity in this document.

No one has opened your report.

⚠ Deactivate link   Cancel   🔗 Copy link

**What happens if a student pastes content from an application that Grammarly Authorship can't access?**
If a student pastes content into their Google Doc from a desktop source or an incognito window, Grammarly will categorize that text as "coped from an unknown source."

What happens if a student tries to game the system by typing text that was generated by AI into their document?
During this beta period, text typed in a document will be categorized as "typed by a human." In the future, we plan to build models to distinguish between genuine typing and copying from another source.

What data does Grammarly Authorship collect on students?
To provide a record of editing history, Grammarly Authorship collects the text written in the context of a document and pasted from Websites like Wikipedia and ChatGPT, as well as prompts used to generate output from ChatGPT or Grammarly. Grammarly *does not* collect or store any data that is not pertinent to the writing process. The student will not be tracked on browsing history or web traffic unrelated to text input via the clipboard.
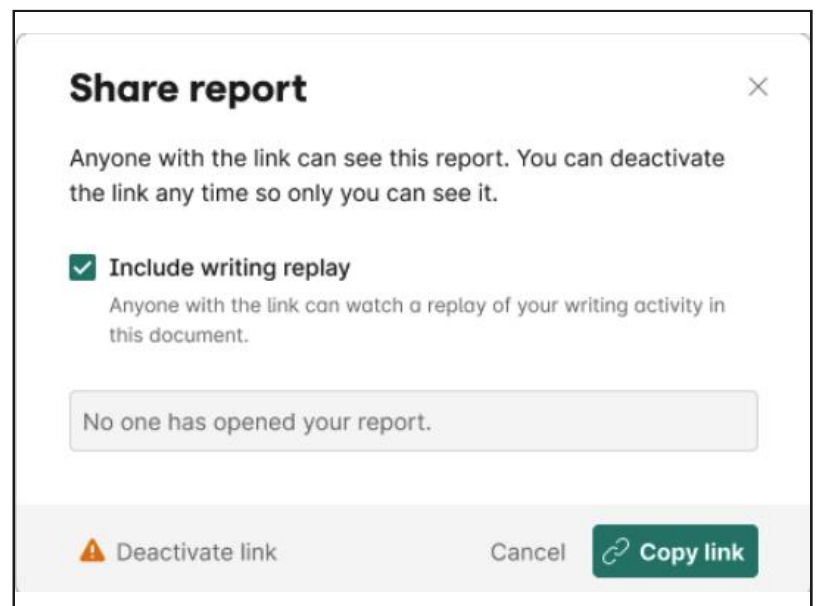
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Where is Grammarly Authorship data stored?

While writing, Grammarly Authorship stores data on the student's device and encrypts it using GCM encryption algorithm. Clicking "See report" sends the document data to Grammarly servers for processing, where it remains for up to 24 hours. Sharing a report sends the data to Grammarly servers and stores it for 12 months.

What Authorship data is shared with generating and sending a report link?

When sharing a report, the reader can see all the same information as the author, including top-level document analytics, the full text color-coded by source, text insight cards, and a full replay of the typing and editing process. The replay feature includes the ability to see text being written and deleted, the names of websites where text is copied from, and prompts to generative AI such as ChatGPT. Students can preview the data available to their instructor by choosing "See report" and replaying the writing activity. They can also exclude the replay in the report when sharing, if they don't want their audience to see their entire writing and editing process.

What are some security considerations when using Grammarly Authorship?

The Grammarly Authorship data includes the editing history of a document, including deleted parts and names of websites used. This data is encrypted at rest but may be accessible by other users of the device if a student is logged into their Grammarly account. It's recommended to log out of Grammarly before letting others use the device.

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How should faculty use Grammarly Authorship?

During the initial beta phase (through 2024), Authorship is an end-user-facing feature only. That means that students are the only ones who can enable Authorship tracking and control when and with whom to share their Authorship reports. The intention is to avoid situations where students feel that Authorship is being used to unfairly police their technology usage or create undue scrutiny on their assignment creation process.

We encourage faculty to recommend to students to turn on Authorship and submit their Authorship reports with their completed writing assignments. Faculty should be transparent with their students about why they should use Authorship, focusing on the potential benefits to students and their own learning.

Grammarly does not recommend that faculty use Authorship as a way to police student work. Authorship should not be used as a way of screening student work for too much or too little use of AI, or as a single data point that is used to penalize students for inappropriate use of AI. Authorship data should not be used to penalize students for completing writing assignments too quickly or slowly, unless there is supporting evidence presented in the Authorship replay and report that shows certain sources may have been used that were explicitly not allowed in the assignment instructions. Ultimately, Grammarly believes Authorship can be a valuable instructional tool to improve writing across courses, if used in ways that encourage faculty-student dialog.