



# The Plagiarism Spectrum: Tagging 10 Types of Unoriginal Work

The Plagiarism Spectrum identifies 10 types of plagiarism based on findings from a worldwide survey of nearly 900 secondary and higher education instructors. Each type of plagiarism has been given a digital moniker to reflect the significant role that the internet and social media play in student writing.



## Clone

Submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own



## Hybrid

Combines perfectly cited sources with copied passages without citation



## CTRL-C

Contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations



## Mashup

Mixes copied material from multiple sources



## Find - Replace

Changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source



## 404 Error

Includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources



## Remix

Paraphrases from multiple sources, made to fit together



## Aggregator

Includes proper citation to sources but the paper contains almost no original work



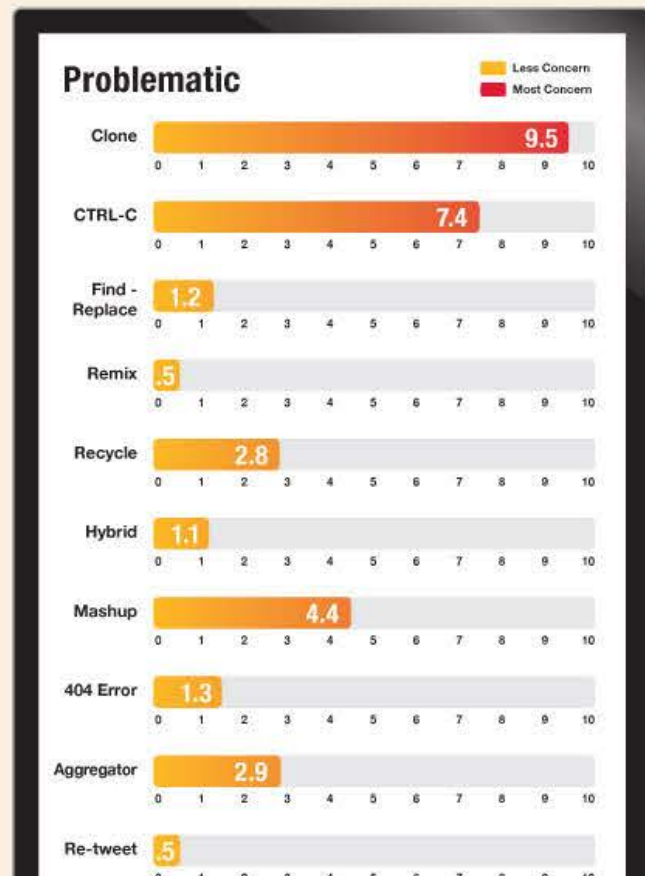
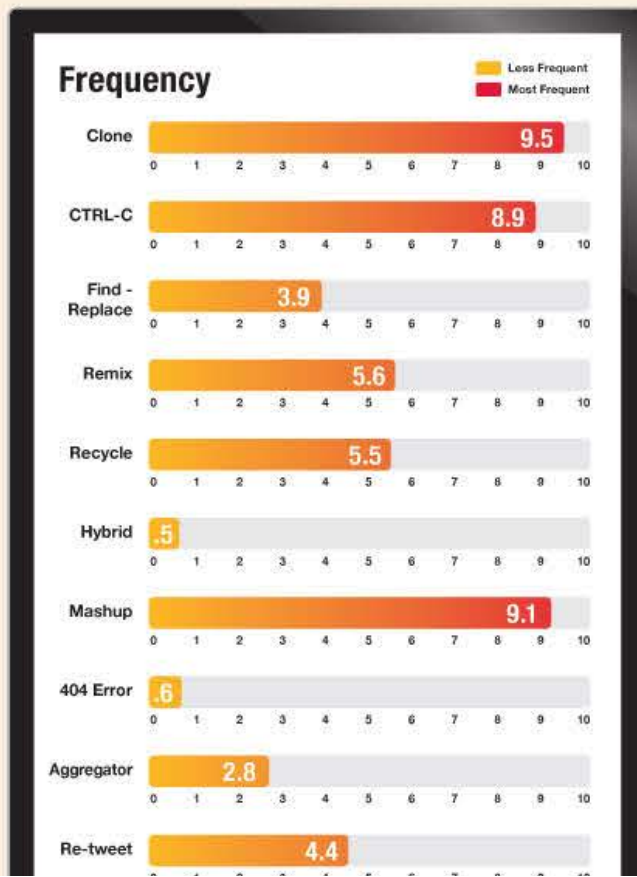
## Recycle

Borrows generously from the writer's previous work without citation



## Re-tweet

Includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text's original wording and/or structure



# How Serious?

Listed below in order of intent are the 10 types along with samples of how plagiarism might appear in each case. The types are ordered by severity, with #1 representing the most severe type of plagiarism.

Turnitin plagiarism spectrum for the 'Clone' type, severity #1. The browser address bar shows [http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism\\_spectrum.html](http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism_spectrum.html). The 'Clone' icon is shown next to the title 'Clone'. The description reads: 'Submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own'. Two horizontal bars show 'Frequency' and 'Problematic' scores, both at 9.5 out of 10. A red ribbon in the top right corner contains the number '#1'. Below the title, a red bar separates 'Original' and 'Unoriginal' text. The 'Original' text is titled 'A Natural Setting' and is a paragraph from 'A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley'. The 'Unoriginal' text is an identical copy of the original text, with pink highlighting indicating the copied content.

Turnitin plagiarism spectrum for the 'CTRL-C' type, severity #2. The browser address bar shows [http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism\\_spectrum.html](http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism_spectrum.html). The 'CTRL-C' icon is shown next to the title 'CTRL-C'. The description reads: 'Contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations'. Two horizontal bars show 'Frequency' and 'Problematic' scores, 8.9 and 7.4 out of 10 respectively. A red ribbon in the top right corner contains the number '#2'. Below the title, a red bar separates 'Original' and 'Unoriginal' text. The 'Original' text is titled 'A Natural Setting' and is a paragraph from 'A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley'. The 'Unoriginal' text is a copy of the original text, with pink highlighting indicating the copied content.



## A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

## The Beautiful Yosemite Valley

From the time of its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, possession on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. And Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, while perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.



[http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism\\_spectrum.html](http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism_spectrum.html)



## Find - Replace

Changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source

Frequency



Problematic



Original

Unoriginal

## A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

## A Beautiful Setting in Yosemite

Since its first discovery by non-native people in the mid-19th century Yosemite Valley has held a special, even sacred, hold on the American psyche because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mindset, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing political movements, migration patterns and environmental issues as man has become more attuned to their relationship and impact on nature.



[http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism\\_spectrum.html](http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism_spectrum.html)



Remix

Frequency

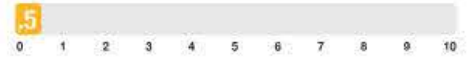


#3

#4

Paraphrases from multiple sources, made to fit together

Problematic



Original

Unoriginal

### A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

### An Untouched View

*A History of Settlement and Change in Yosemite Valley*

The first non-natives to see Yosemite Valley were probably members of the mid-nineteenth century Joseph Walker Party, who crossed the Sierra Nevada from East to West. The first descriptions of Yosemite came almost 20 years later. From the start, the valley has been renowned for its natural beauty, and highly regarded as the centerpiece of Yosemite National Park, attracting visitors from around the world. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to their relationship and impact on nature.



[http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism\\_spectrum.html](http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism_spectrum.html)

#5



## Recycle

Borrows generously from the writer's previous work without citation

Frequency



Problematic



Original

Unoriginal

### A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

### Ecology 201:

#### An Unnatural Expectation

*The Impact of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

From its first discovery by the Ahwahnechee in the mid-nineteenth century Yosemite Valley has held a unique, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time reflecting changing politics, human migration patterns and the rise of environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.





# Hybrid

Combines perfectly cited sources with copied passages without citation



Original Unoriginal

## A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

## A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. "Native Americans have lived in the Yosemite region for as long as 8,000 years. The first people that we have record of was a band of Native Americans that called the Valley "Ah-wah-nee" and themselves the Ahwahnechee."<sup>1</sup> While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

<sup>1</sup> "Yosemite Valley." Wikipedia. Wikipedia. 20 Apr. 2012. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yosemite\\_Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yosemite_Valley)>



# Mashup

Mixes copied material from multiple sources



Original Unoriginal

## A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

## A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience. The work of Ayres gave easterners an appreciation for Yosemite Valley and started a movement to preserve it. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to their relationship and impact on nature. The 1840 California Gold Rush led to a profusion

impact on nature.

between miners and natives, and the volunteer Mariposa Battalion was formed by the state of California as a punitive expedition against natives in the Yosemite area.



http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism\_spectrum.html

#8



## 404 Error

Includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources



Original

Unoriginal

### A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

### Perceived Beauty: Man's Nature

*Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

"Since its first discovery by the Joseph Walker Party in the mid-nineteenth century"<sup>1</sup> "Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all "special temples of Nature."<sup>2</sup> "While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to their relationship and impact on nature."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For an insightful discussion of Walker's expedition, including an extended description of their first sight of Yosemite Valley, see Walker's original piece in *The Golden Times*, May 5, 1833 : p. 4. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Bloom, H. "Aesthetics of the Found: The 'Nature' of the Natural." *Aesthetics and the Found*, November 2000 : 18-22. Print.

<sup>3</sup> Huang et al. "Politics, Policy, and the Environment." *Nature and Society*. 25.3 (1997) : 127-53. Print.



http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism\_spectrum.html

#9



## Aggregator

Includes proper citation to sources but the paper contains almost no original work



Original

Unoriginal

### A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even

### A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*<sup>1</sup>

Yosemite Valley was first sighted by non-Indians in 1833 by Joseph Rutherford Walker and his group of explorers.<sup>2</sup> Yosemite has a long



religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

and diverse cultural history that helped to shape the region, country, and even the world.<sup>3</sup> While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to their relationship and impact on nature.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Harrick, C. "A Natural Setting." *Nature and its Discontents* 23.1 (1996) : 41-50. Print.

<sup>2</sup> "History of Yosemite," *Yosemitegold.com* Ace & Friends, n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2012. <<http://www.yosemitegold.com/yosemite/history.html>>

<sup>3</sup> "Yosemite National Park Cultural History," *Yosemitepark.com* DNC Parks and Resorts at Yosemite, Inc., n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2012. <<http://www.yosemitepark.com/cultural-history.aspx>>

<sup>4</sup> Harrick, C. "A Natural Setting." p. 41.

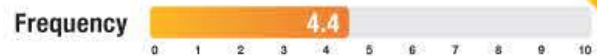
#10

http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism\_spectrum.html



## Re-tweet

Includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text's original wording and/or structure



Original

Unoriginal

### A Natural Setting

*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

Since its first discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century, Yosemite Valley has held a special, even religious, hold on the American conscience because its beauty makes it an incomparable valley and one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite holds a special grip on the western mind, perceptions about the Valley have evolved over time due to changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as man has become more attuned to his relationship and impact on nature.

### A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley

From its earliest discovery by non-indigenous people in the mid-nineteenth century Yosemite Valley has held a spiritual hold on the American conscience; its beauty is incomparable and has been held up as one of the grandest of all special temples of Nature. While Yosemite has a special grip on the western mind, impressions about the Valley have evolved over time, shaped by changing politics, migration patterns and environmental concerns as mankind has become more attuned to its relationship and impact on nature.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Harrick, C. "A Natural Setting." *Nature and its Discontents* 23.1 (1996) : 41-50. Print.

## What next?

According to our survey, 71% of instructors review their institution's academic integrity policy with students. Here are three recommendations for how to consider the 10 types when developing academic integrity policies:

Inform Students

Intent Matters

Use OriginalityCheck®

Share The Plagiarism Spectrum  
with students and use it as a  
guide to inform them of the ways  
in which plagiarism can take form.

The Plagiarism Spectrum  
emphasizes the range of intent  
behind student plagiarism. Use the  
spectrum to guide decisions about  
appropriate responses to plagiarism.

Give students access to their  
Originality Reports in Turnitin so  
that they can see how they may  
have inappropriately used or  
referenced source material.

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## About This Survey

Turnitin surveyed 879 higher and secondary educators from around the world. Of the respondents, 28% were secondary instructors; 51% taught at 2-year or 4-year undergraduate schools and 20% taught at the graduate level. 33% of respondents taught English or writing Composition.

### Level:

28% Secondary (7% Middle School + 93% High School)  
12% 2-year college  
39% 4-year college  
20% Graduate +  
1% Other

### Subject:

33% English/Writing/Comp  
38% Non-English  
2% Librarian  
27% Other

## About Turnitin

Turnitin is the world's leading provider of originality checking and online grading solutions, used by over one million instructors and twenty million students worldwide. Institutions with widespread adoption of Turnitin see a reduction in unoriginal content of 30 to 35 percent in the first year. By the fourth year, many institutions see levels of unoriginality fall by up to 70 percent.



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