# The Plagiarism Spectrum:

Tagging Ten Types of Unoriginal Work

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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 has been tagged with an easy to remember digital moniker, defined, ranked by severity (#1-10), and scored by frequency of appearance (1=least, 10=most).

SEVERITY

FREQUENCY

#1 Clone
Submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own
9.5 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#2 CTRL-C
Containing significant portions of text from a single source without alterations
8.9 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#3 Find - Replace
Changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source
3.9 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#4 Remix
Mixing paraphrased material from multiple sources
5.6 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#5 Recycle
Borrowing generously from one's previous work without citation
5.5 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#6 Hybrid
Combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages without citation
.5 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#7 Mashup
Mixing copied material from multiple sources
9.1 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#8 404 Error
Citing non-existent sources or including inaccurate information about sources
.6 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#9 RSS Feed
Including proper citation of sources but containing almost no original work
2.8 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

#10 Re-tweet
Including proper citation but relying too closely on the text's original wording and/or structure
4.4 | 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
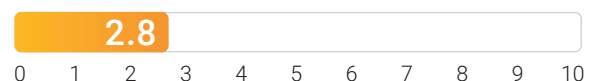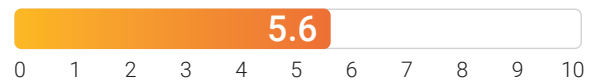
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