The Plagiarism Spectrum:
Tagging Ten 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 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**

**#1**  
**Clone**  
Submitting another’s work, word-for-word, as one’s own

**FREQUENCY**

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**#2**  
**CTRL-C**  
Containing significant portions of text from a single source without alterations

**#3**  
**Find - Replace**  
Changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source

**#4**  
**Remix**  
Mixing paraphrased material from multiple sources

**#5**  
**Recycle**  
Borrowing generously from one’s previous work without citation

**#6**  
**Hybrid**  
Combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages without citation

**#7**  
**Mashup**  
Mixing copied material from multiple sources

**#8**  
**404 Error**  
Citing non-existent sources or including inaccurate information about sources

**#9**  
**RSS Feed**  
Including proper citation of sources but containing almost no original work

**#10**  
**Re-tweet**  
Including proper citation but relying too closely on the text’s original wording and/or structure