

# What is Plagiarism?

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

**According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means**

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source
- to commit literary theft
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

**But can words and ideas really be stolen?**

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

**All of the following are considered plagiarism:**

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

**It is impossible to distinguish between unintentional plagiarism and intentional plagiarism; therefore, you must be diligent in quoting, summarizing and citing sources.**

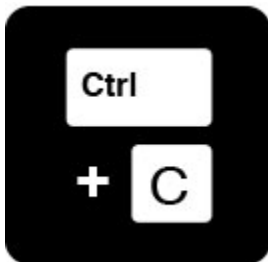
# Types of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not always a black and white issue. The boundary between plagiarism and research is often unclear. Learning to recognize the various forms of plagiarism, especially the more ambiguous ones, is an important step towards effective prevention.

The Plagiarism Spectrum was developed as a way to define and distinguish the common ways in which plagiarism can take form. The Spectrum makes these forms memorable by tagging the types with “Digital 2.0” monikers, a gesture that both acknowledges the role that the internet plays in instances of content copying and makes the types more meaningful for a generation of writers who are “digital natives.”

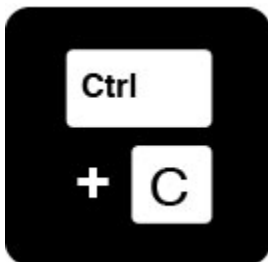
As part of the Plagiarism Spectrum project, a May 2012 survey of nearly 900 secondary and higher education instructors was also conducted to assess the frequency with which these types appear as well as the degree to which each type is problematic for instructors.

Each of the 10 most common types of plagiarism are defined below. The types are ranked in order of severity of intent.



## #1. Clone

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



## #2. CTRL-C

Contains 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**

Paraphrases from multiple sources, made to fit together



#### **#5. Recycle**

Borrows generously from the writer's previous work without citation



#### **#6. Hybrid**

Combines perfectly cited sources with copied passages without citation



#### **#7. Mashup**

Mixes copied material from multiple sources



#### **#8. 404 Error**

Includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources



### **#9. Aggregator**

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



### **#10. Re-tweet**

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

In addition to being ranked by severity, each type is also accompanied by an example to illustrate how each type appears within the context of a paper.

Revised: August 08, 2013

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<http://plagiarism.org> (August 07, 2013)

[http://pages.turnitin.com/rs/iparadigms/images/Turnitin\\_WhitePaper\\_PlagiarismSpectrum.pdf?mkt\\_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRokuq%2FAZKXonjHpfsX%2B6OwtWqGg38431UFwdcjKpmjr1YEGSsF0aPyQAgobGp5I5FEBTbjYUKtst6cNWA%3D%3D](http://pages.turnitin.com/rs/iparadigms/images/Turnitin_WhitePaper_PlagiarismSpectrum.pdf?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRokuq%2FAZKXonjHpfsX%2B6OwtWqGg38431UFwdcjKpmjr1YEGSsF0aPyQAgobGp5I5FEBTbjYUKtst6cNWA%3D%3D) (August 07, 2013)

# 6.0 Appendix: Samples of Plagiarism by Type

#1



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



## Clone

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



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. 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.



# CTRL-C

Contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations



Original	Unoriginal
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## 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.

# Find - Replace

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



Original	Unoriginal
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## 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.



# Remix

Paraphrases from multiple sources, made to fit together



Original	Unoriginal
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## 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

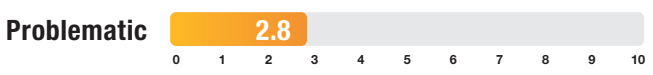
*A History of Settlement and Change in Yosemite Valley*

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.



# Recycle

Borrows generously from the writer's previous work without citation



Original	Unoriginal
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### 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
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## 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
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## 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 1849 California Gold Rush led to conflicts 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.



# 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.



# Aggregator

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



Original	Unoriginal
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## 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*<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 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.



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

#10



## Re-tweet

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

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 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.