The Plagiarism Spectrum 2.0

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The Plagiarism Spectrum 2.0 identifies twelve types of unoriginal work. Familiarity with traditional forms of plagiarism and emerging trends helps students develop original thinking skills and do their best original work.

Original Thinking

When someone submits assignments that are their own work, composed of original ideas built on attributed sources.

Student Collusion

Working with other students on an assignment meant for individual assessment.

Word-for-Word Plagiarism

Copying and pasting content without proper attribution.

Self Plagiarism

Reusing one's previously published or submitted work without proper attribution.

Mosaic Plagiarism

Weaving phrases and text from several sources into one's own work. Adjusting sentences without quotation marks or attribution.

Software-based

Taking content written by another and running it through a software tool (text spinner, translation engine) to evade plagiarism detection.

Contract Cheating

Engaging a third party (for free, for pay, or in-kind) to complete an assignment and representing that as one's own work.

Inadvertent Plagiarism

Forgetting to properly cite or quote a source or unintentional paraphrasing.

Paraphrase Plagiarism

Rephrasing a source's ideas without proper attribution.

Computer Code Plagiarism

Copying or adapting source code without permission from and attribution to the original creator.

Source-based Plagiarism

Providing inaccurate or incomplete information about sources such that they cannot be found.

Manual Text

Manipulating text with the intention of misleading plagiarism detection software.

Data Plagiarism

Falsifying or fabricating data or improperly appropriating someone else's work, putting a researcher, institution, or publisher's reputation in jeopardy.

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