

---

 **WHITE PAPER** The Plagiarism Spectrum

Instructor Insights into the 10 Types of Plagiarism



Prevent Plagiarism.  
Engage Students.

[www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)

---

## 2.0 Defining Plagiarism: The Plagiarism Spectrum

The Plagiarism Spectrum is a guide to help educators, students, academics, and writers recognize the various forms of plagiarism. This spectrum moves plagiarism beyond the black-and-white definition of “literary theft” to one that captures the nuances of how plagiarism can take form.

As part of this study, Turnitin surveyed both higher and secondary education instructors to take a measure of how prevalent and problematic these instances of plagiarism are among their students. The Plagiarism Spectrum ranks the types of plagiarism by intent and then provides data on the prevalence and problematic nature of type based on the feedback from 879 survey respondents.

### 10 TYPES OF PLAGIARISM ORDERED FROM MOST TO LEAST SEVERE



#### 1. CLONE:

An act of submitting another’s work, word-for-word, as one’s own.



#### 2. CTRL-C:

A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.



#### 3. FIND-REPLACE:

The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.



#### 4. REMIX:

An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.



#### 5. RECYCLE:

The act of borrowing generously from one’s own previous work without citation; To self plagiarize.



#### 6. HYBRID:

The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.



#### 7. MASHUP:

A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.



#### 8. 404 ERROR:

A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources



#### 9. AGGREGATOR:

The “Aggregator” includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.



#### 10. RE-TWEET:

This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text’s original wording and/or structure.

# 6.0 Appendix: Samples of Plagiarism by Type

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

**Clone**

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

**Frequency** 9.5

**Problematic** 9.5

**Original**

**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.

**Unoriginal**

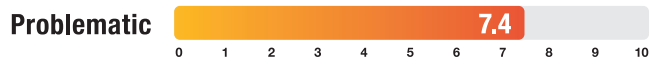
**A Natural Setting**  
*A History of Exploration and Settlement in Yosemite Valley*

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.



# CTRL-C

Contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations



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.

## 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

#3



## 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

#4



# Remix

Paraphrases from multiple sources, made to fit together

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.

## An Untouched View

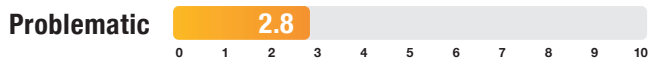
*A History of Settlement and Change in Yosemite Valley*

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
----------	------------

## 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.



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

#6



## Hybrid

Combines perfectly cited sources with copied passages without citation

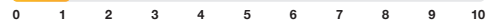
Frequency

.5



Problematic

1.1



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)>





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



# 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 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.



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

#8



# 404 Error

Includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources

Frequency

.6



Problematic

1.3



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": "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.



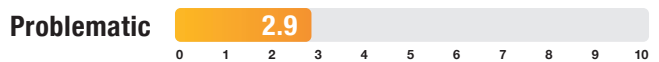
http://pages.turnitin.com/plagiarism\_spectrum.html

#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 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.