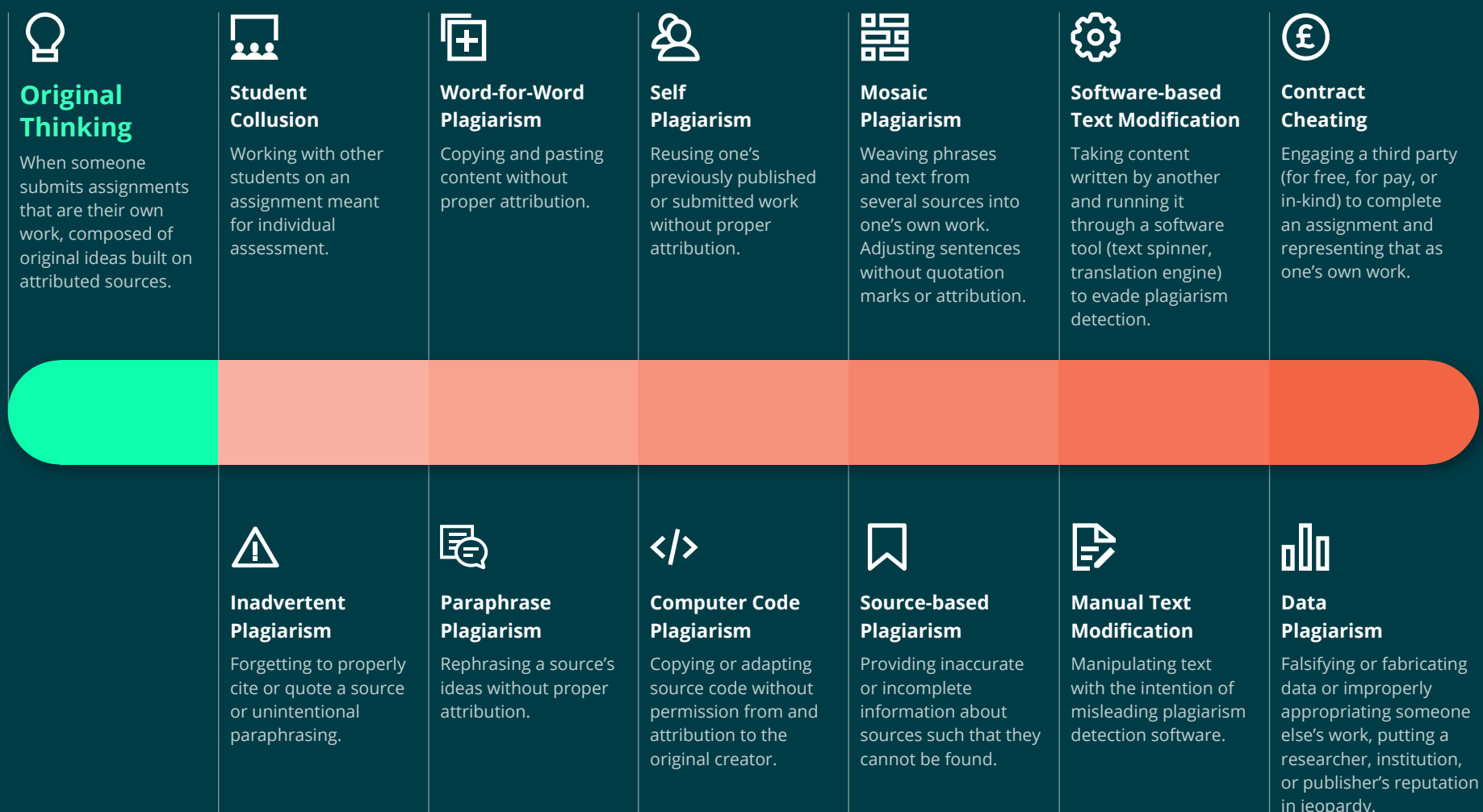turnitin™

The Plagiarism Spectrum 2.0

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 Text Modification

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 Modification

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.

Pedagogical strategies and technology interventions you can use to uphold originality in your classrooms.

Types of Unoriginality	Why It Occurs	What Educators Can Do
Original Thinking	Students produce original work when they are empowered with an understanding of academic integrity and their ideas are supported.	Original thinking is a learned skill that educators help cultivate through consistent and ongoing opportunities for learning and growth. Original thinking skills are essential for academic success and serve students throughout their personal and professional journeys.
Inadvertent Plagiarism Student Collusion Paraphrase Plagiarism Word-for-Word Plagiarism	Students may produce work with these forms of plagiarism when they lack a foundational understanding of academic integrity.	Educators may incorporate direct instruction around citation, paraphrasing, and appropriate collaboration into lesson plans to increase awareness of academic integrity and mitigate academic misconduct. Educators may also adopt a text similarity checking tool to help reinforce students' developing academic integrity skills.
Computer Code Plagiarism Self Plagiarism Source-based Plagiarism Mosaic Plagiarism	Students may turn to these forms of plagiarism when they lack advanced academic integrity skills or are under pressure.	Educators may provide more nuanced definitions of different forms of plagiarism so that students understand that even if it's their own words, their own research, their own arrangement of ideas, if not cited correctly, it still counts as plagiarism. Educators may adopt a holistic academic integrity tool that not only checks for text similarity but also addresses mosaic and code plagiarism.
Manual Text Modification Software-based Text Modification Data Plagiarism Contract Cheating	Students may purposefully engage in these forms of misconduct when they lack knowledge of ethical issues or intrinsic motivation.	Educators may incorporate explicit instruction on these more deliberate forms of academic misconduct to raise awareness in students and to make known educator vigilance around academic integrity. Educators may adopt a new standard in academic integrity solutions that addresses both text similarity and trends such as text modification and contract cheating.