

Copyright: Printing in Schools

What is
Copyright?

Copyright is the legal protection of creative works including literature, drama, music, artistic works, poetry, novels, movies, songs, software, and even architecture. Copyright laws give the copyright holder exclusive rights to these creative works.

What About
Fair Use?

Under section 107 of the Copyright Act, **Fair Use** can allow teachers some limited exemptions from copyright for instructional purposes. <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

What is allowable and what is not allowable?

Allowable

- A single copy of a book chapter, an article, short story, essay, poem, a chart, graph, diagram, drawing, cartoon or picture from a book, periodical, or newspaper
- Multiple copies (not to exceed the number of students) so long as the following guidelines are met...
 - Poem or excerpt less than 250 words
 - Complete piece of prose less than 2,500 words
 - Prose excerpt not more than 1,000 words or 10%
 - One chart, graph, diagram, drawing, cartoon or picture from a work
 - Items are copied as needed and only if there is not time to allow for a “request to copy” response

Not Allowable

- More than one short poem, article, story, essay or two excerpts may be copied from the same author, and no more than three from the same work
- No more than nine instances of such multiple copying for one course during one class term
- Copies may not be used to create or to replace or substitute for anthologies, compilations or collective works
- No copying of or from works intended to be “consumable”
- Copying should not be a substitute for the purchase of books, publishers’ reprints or periodicals
- The same item cannot be repeatedly copied by the same teacher from term to term

Guiding Principles

- Copies should be made on a *spontaneous* basis. Alternate arrangements should be made for long-term needs.
- Copies should not exceed 10% of a work or include the “heart” of a work.
- Copies should not affect the potential market value of a work.

Copy Alternatives

- Workbooks with statements indicating copies per student are allowable
- Subscription services or purchased resources with statements indicating copies per student are allowable

For more information see the US Government Handout for Educators: <https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ21.pdf>