

Quickie Guide to Copyright for Students

Any person who creates a poem, story, movie, song, essay, cartoon, picture, play, newspaper article, CD, CD-ROM, DVD, radio or TV interview, story or program, magazine article, building plan, art work, photograph, internet site or graphics or logo, internet article or picture or animated icon, database or spreadsheet, HTML code, software, book, or other written, visual, audio, online, or multimedia product has a copyright on it. That means you are limited in what you may borrow to use in your own projects. You must stay within "fair use" limits, and to go beyond "fair use", you must get permission. You must always give proper credit, citing your sources properly and completely. The laws on copyright are complex, and these guidelines are only approximate. You are responsible for proper use, permissions, and giving credit.

General Guidelines

Alterations

In general, you must use the material in its original form, without alteration, editing, or changing format. Any alteration must be clearly noted, and in most cases, is allowable only with permission.

Crediting Sources & Copyright Notice

You must use proper citation form (MLA or APA style) and show the copyright notice © and copyright ownership information if it is included in the original source.

Multimedia Project Credit Screen

In a multimedia project, you must include an opening screen stating your project contains copyrighted materials used according to the "fair use" exemption and/or by permission. Be sure to include a mediagraphy (screen with list of all sources used to create your project).

Public Domain Material

Works in the public domain, such as U. S. Government documents and other works, or works on which the copyright has expired, may be used without permission or limitations noted in these guidelines.

Student Use in Portfolios

Students may perform and display their own educational multimedia projects created following "fair use" guidelines in the course for which they were made and use them in portfolios as examples of their work for later personal uses such as job and college interviews.

"Fair Use" for Educational Purposes

Portions of copyrighted material may be used by teachers and students in projects and presentations which are educational, non-commercial, and limited in numbers of copies and distribution. What teachers and students may use in classrooms, presentations, projects, and portfolios is called a "fair use" exemption to the copyright law.

"Fair Use" Guidelines for Student Projects

Written Materials - newspapers, books, magazines, CD-ROM, computer files, etc.

- Up to 10% of the total or 1,000 words, whichever is less

Poems

- An entire poem of less than 250 words may be used
- No more than 3 poems by one poet
- ▪ No more than 5 poems by different authors in an anthology

Illustrations or Photographs

- No more than 5 images from one artist or photographer
- Up to 10% or 15 works, whichever is less, from a collection

Music - CDs, audiotape, computer files

- Up to 10% of the work but no more than 30 seconds

Motion media - video, TV or radio broadcast, DVD, CD-ROM, computer files

- Up to 10% of the total or 3 minutes, whichever is less

Database or Spreadsheet

- Up to 10% or 2500 fields or cell entries, whichever is less

Getting Permission

When you need to get permission

- If you intend to publish another person's photographs, logos, graphics, etc. on your web site
- If you intend to use the project for commercial or non-educational purposes If you want to use more of a copyrighted work than "fair use" allows

- When you intend to duplicate the project with more than two copies
- If your project may have a broader use at a later time
- If you want to change the format, alter the presentation or modify the content

How to get permission

Write or e-mail the copyright holder, publisher, or other obvious source. Include the information below and note specifically what you want permission to copy, use, and what you plan to do with it.

- Title
- Author(s)
- Copyright year
- Medium/format to be duplicated
- Number of copies
- Manner of distribution
- Type of reproduction
- Length of retention
- Purpose/use of the reproduction
- Contact information, address, e-mail, or fax number

What is Not Allowed

You May Not...

- Make copies of commercial videos
- Copy software or music to a computer hard drive, CD or audiotape
- Allow a friend to copy your software or music to a computer
- Use a web site HTML code without permission
- Post a web page without permission for photographs, graphics, designs and logos used from other sources

Sources

“Copyright Applies to Everyone.” Missouri Dept of Elem. & Secondary Education, 2000. 15 Mar 02. <<http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/curriculum/copyright/finaldoc.pdf>>

“Copyright Basics.” Text of Power Point presentation, Penn State Libraries. 17 May 02. <<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/mtss/fairuse/fairhigh.html>>

“Fair Use Guidelines for Educational Multimedia.” Educational Multimedia Fair Use Guidelines Development Committee, July 17, 1996. 11 Feb. 2001. 17 May 2002. <<http://www.indiana.edu/~ccumc/ccguides.html#toc>>

Lundstrom, Marie, Librarian, and Jan Thompson, Technology Coordinator, Dimond HighSchool, Anchorage AK. 28 May 02.