

Online Images + Copyright = Citations

What's the big deal, anyhow? Everybody does it, nobody cares.

False. Images are just as much protected work as a publication with words. Your citation protects the creator—they get credit—and you—no plagiarism! You cite your sources for a quote, you also must cite your sources for any image used in an academic work.

Remember, your goal with a citation is to guide your reader back to the source you used.

Some basic terms

Creative Commons: an organization (and web site) working to better define use of online images.

Public domain: copyright was never established, has expired, or was released. These products can be used freely (but still require a citation).

Fair Use: a copyright term that allows you, as a student, to use an image one time for a work that does not create income.

Stock photos: these are usually licensed, the creator wants you to pay to use them. They will often have words across the image — a “watermark”. When you find one source WITH the watermark and another without it, the one without is probably altered (stolen).

Filter Your Search

Use **Edge** as your browser, it has more filtering options:

Enter your search phrase -> select “images” -> “filter” (a small toolbar will drop down) -> “Licenses” -> Select the license level you want and continue searching. (First 3 are best)

All Creative Commons

Public domain

Free to share and use

Free to share and use commercially

Free to modify, share, and use

Free to modify, share, and use commercially

ProTip: try to get back to the original site of the image: use your internet skills and do your best.

And always cite your sources:

GOOGLE IS NOT A SOURCE!

Citing an online image:

Artist's last name, first name.

Title of work. (If no title is given, use caption of work in quotation marks.)

Creation date,

Institution and city where work is housed, if provided.

Title of the website,

Location. (URL- omit http://; use stable URL or DOI if provided; truncate URL if longer than 3 full lines or longer than rest of entry.)

Date of access.

Sites to Try

REMEMBER: Fair use says you may use any image. But start with these public domain-friendly sites first.

Flickr (flickr.com): includes a license filter and more artist info

Pexels (pexels.com) : no license filter, less artist info

Pixabay (pixabay.com): use the “royalty-free images”

Pics4learning.com and **storyboardthat.com/photos**: 2 VERY kid-friendly options