

Educating Yourself on Copyright Laws and Fair Use

When you want to use the work of others in your own work, you need to make sure that you are abiding by Copyright laws, or if you are breaking Copyright laws on purpose, you are doing so under the “Fair Use” clause.

[Click here](#) to visit the US Copyright Office website and browse through the laws.

[Click here](#) to read about Fair Use on the US Copyright Office website.

Fair Use: The Four Factors

The following information on Fair Use is taken from the [Stanford University Library website](#). Visit the site for a detailed description of each factor and [example court cases for each factor](#). You can also read about Fair Use at American University’s [Center for Media and Social Impact website](#).

The four factors judges consider when determining Fair Use are:

1. the purpose and character of your use
2. the nature of the copyrighted work
3. the amount and substantiality of the portion taken
4. the effect of the use upon the potential market

The 2010 Anti-Circumvention Exemption Ruling

[Click here](#) to read about the US Copyright Office’s Anti-Circumvention Exemption Ruling. This ruling allows university professors and students to circumvent the copyright on DVDs for educational purposes.

Searching for Material in the Public Domain

You can use items in the Public Domain (PD) in any way you wish. Works created in the US before 1923 are in the PD, and works created before 1964 that did not have the copyright renewed are also in the PD. [Read more here](#) about how works enter the PD. These works will be labeled with an icon like these:



Here are some useful websites to use when you want to search for media assets (audio clips, video clips, still images, or written works) that are in the Public Domain. You can also use a search engine like Google to search for items and include “Public Domain” in the search criteria.

[Public Domain Info Project](#): list of songs in the PD

The Internet Archive’s [Prelinger Archive](#): films, movies, videos, and commercials

[The Internet Archive](#): a digital library of internet sites and online artifacts in the PD

[Creative Commons Search](#): images, music, and media in the PD and under CC licensing

[CCMixer](#): songs in the PD and under CC licensing

[Flickr](#): still images licensed under creative commons (after searching, check the “Creative Commons Only” option under the License menu. Be sure to double check the kind of CC license and record author information.

Searching for Material Licensed Under Creative Commons

You can use material licensed under Creative Commons in some ways, depending on the type of license. Material that is licensed through Creative Commons will be labeled with an icon like these:



BY stands for Attribution: you need to credit the original creator of the work.

SA stands for Share Alike: you need to share any work you make with the material just as it was shared with you (meaning you should license your own material under a SA license)

NC stands for Non-Commercial: you can't use the work to make money

ND stands for No Derivatives: you can't alter or change the work in any way, but you may use it in unchanged format.

To do a search in Google for material only under Creative Commons licensing, click [Advanced Image Search](#) and select "free to use or share" under Usage Rights.

How Do I Provide Attribution?

To provide attribution for a work with a CC BY license, provide the title of the work if given, the author or username, the source, and the kind of CC license. You can also link to an author's profile page, the original web page where the work is found, and to the CC license deed if desired. For more information about providing attribution and some examples, visit the [Best Practices for Attribution CC wiki page](#).

How Do I License My Work through Creative Commons?

To license your own work through Creative Commons or to check what certain CC licenses will allow you to do, visit the [Creative Commons website](#), [read about and select a license](#), [download the appropriate icon](#), or [download a video bumper](#). For more information about how to mark your work with a CC license, visit the [Creative Commons wiki "Marking Your Work" page](#).

Advice for Educational Remixers

DOUBLE CHECK: Always double check all images, video clips, and music you want to use to make sure they are in the Public Domain or licensed for reuse under Creative Commons. If it's not labeled, you have to assume it's under copyright.

CITE FOR CLASS: Most anything falls under Fair Use if used only for educational purposes, so if you don't plan on publishing your work beyond our classroom, STEAL, REMIX, USE, MASH-UP, RIP. Just cite your sources.

PUBLISH WITH CAUTION: However, if you want to publish on YouTube or elsewhere, that's a different matter, and you should keep copyright laws in mind.

This resource was created by Crystal VanKooten. Please use it, add to it, and pass it on!

