

Copyright Law: Copyright Infringement and Royalty free

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[Note: See also Part II of this webquest]

In the digital age, it is very easy to use (translate: borrow, steal, plagiarize, infringe, etc.) others' work in students' work. This very ease often clouds the ways in which another's work may be used legally, and students and the teachers and administrators who work with them may not be fully versed in copyright law, copyright infringement, and the potential consequences – legal and financial – that may result. Use this webquest as a beginning tutorial for yourself and your staff.

First stop: Student Press Law Center – PowerPoint presentation. Click on the "Related Documents" links to the right for a handout for students and presentation notes to assist you as you and your students view the PowerPoint. <http://www.splc.org/article/2014/08/media-law-presentation-copyright-law>

Teaching copyright: <http://www.teachingcopyright.org/handout/fair-use-faq>

Copyright & Art: <http://www.legalzoom.com/intellectual-property-rights/copyrights/state-fair>
Consider the last sentence of this link: "And if you want the only guaranteed safe way to use someone else's work as part of your own, ask the copyright owner for permission. And get it in writing."

Use of copyrighted music - Recording Industry Association of America:
http://www.riaa.com/physicalpiracy.php?content_selector=piracy_online_the_law

This is definitely a site you want to share with your students. Check out the grey links on the left side of the page as well. This page should provide a good scare with the consequences of music theft.

School Video News: <http://schoolvideonews.com/Copyright/Copyright-issues-when-using-music-in-videos>

This is THE website that will give you the information you need about legal use of music in school-produced videos and the publishing of those videos. Also, this is a good resource for you as a broadcast journalism adviser. You can sign up for their emails and newsletters. I still subscribe and they offer great advice. The orange box on the right might serve as a great research assignment after going over this page by having each student read the link and then report back to the class the key legal facts learned through the link. Note: This link also talks about royalty free libraries. YouTube, if you use it as your distribution mode, does have its own royalty free music to use. If you are using it, check their royalty free set up.

JEAScholastic Press Rights Commission: I did a search of this website (another one you should always use as a resource) and the search yielded these articles to check out. Very good info here: <http://jeasprc.org/?s=use+of+music>

Radio Television Digital News Association [RTNDA]: The professionals' resource. While this article does not discuss the legalities per se, it does raise some good ethical questions broadcast journalists should consider:
http://www.rtdna.org/content/guidelines_for_ethical_video_and_audio_editing

Using the above, consider having your staff make a checklist to guide them in their decisions.