

# Digital Citizenship

## Copyrights and Wrongs

### Notes

#### Vocabulary:

##### Fair Use:

- The ability to use a *small amount* of someone's creative work without permission, but only in certain ways.
- The work can not be used for commercial purposes and it can only be used in certain ways which include:
  - Schoolwork and education
  - News reporting
  - Criticism or social commentary
  - Comedy or parody
- Using a small amount of someone else's work in a school report or the school paper is considered fair use, while posting it on a blog or on a social networking site is not considered to be fair use.

##### Commercial Purposes:

- Use in connection with a business, usually for profit.

##### Copyright:

- A law that protects a creator's ownership of and control over the work he or she creates, requiring other people to get the creator's permission before they copy, share, or perform that work.

##### Creative Commons:

- A kind of copyright that makes it easy for people to copy, share, and build on someone's creative work – as long as they give the creator credit for it.

##### Public Domain:

- Creative work that's not protected by copyright and is therefore free for you to use however you want.

##### Creative Work:

- Includes all types of work that someone creates, including writing of all kinds, artwork, photos, videos and music.

##### Example:

*Imagine you took a photo of your dog and posted it online. Because you are the creator, you own the copyright to this image. This means you have control over how other people use your photo. Copyright law is pretty strict, meaning that people will have to get your permission before they can copy, print, or use your work for any reason.*

*However, if you use a Creative Commons license, you give people more freedom to copy and share your photo. Some Creative Commons licenses even say it is all right to make money off of the photo, while others say it cannot be used for commercial purposes. People choose Creative Commons licenses because the licenses offer more opportunities for other people to use and share their work. (examples of Creative Commons Licenses can be found at: <http://creativecommons.org/>)*

*Finally, imagine that you want the photo to be used freely by all, without people having to request permission. You then would release the photo into the public domain, which allows others to use your photo however they want to because it is no longer protected by copyright. Copyrights don't last forever, so works often count as "public domain" after a certain time period. Works from the U.S. government are also in the public domain.*

When using someone's creative work in a way that isn't covered by fair use, need to investigate its copyright status.

Ways to be respectful of other people's creative work:

- Check who owns it
- Get permission to use it
- Give credit to the creator
- Buy it (if necessary)
- Use it responsibly

A person owns the creative work that they produce, whether it's writing, visual art, photography, video, music, or some other form. You cannot use copyrighted material legally without the permission of the person that created it. There are ethical as well as legal considerations involved in using the work of others. Most people want to receive credit for their creative work. Some might want their work seen by as many people as possible, while others might want to limit use and receive compensation. When respecting creative work, the choice should be that of the creator.

Photos that are public domain:

[www.loc.gov/pictures](http://www.loc.gov/pictures) (Library of Congress's Prints & Photographs Online)

[www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) (Flickr)