

ICT15F - Digital Life - Lesson 3 – Copyrights & Wrongs

Lesson Adapted from

<http://www.commonsemmedia.org/educators/lesson/copyrights-and-wrongs-9-10>

Thanks to computers and the Internet we are surrounded by content everyday that is easily accessible, easily copied and transformed for our own purposes. The difficulty is that, whether we want to admit it or not, most of these files are the creative work of another person.

Pre-Video Discussion Questions:

- What do you think we mean when we talk about someone's creative work?
- Have you ever used creative work you found online – for example, a photo or a poem – for personal use?
- When you use creative work you find online, what considerations do you make about who made it, if any?
- What are the ways you can be respectful of people's creative work?

Watch:

<http://video.commonsemmedia.org/digitalcitizenship/RespectingCreativeWork-ACreatorsRights-CreditforCreativeWork-video.mp4>

Post-Video Discussion Questions:

How do you think you would you feel if someone used your creative work? Would it make a difference whether they did the following:

- Asked your permission to use it?
- Gave you credit as the creator?
- Changed the picture or added a caption without asking you?

What do you think it means to use someone else's creative work responsibly? Does it matter how and where you use it?

Solution?

I know right now you are thinking that we are doomed to an eternity of breaking the law or never using someone else's work again, but there is hope. The terms below are important to know if you want to use creative content respectfully.

- **Fair Use:** The ability to use a small amount of someone's creative work without permission, but only in certain ways
- **Commercial Purposes:** A use in connection with a business, usually for profit
- **Copyright:** A law that protects you're a creator's ownership of and control over the work he or she creates, requiring other people to get you're 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 one wants

Creative Commons

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 they offer more opportunities for other people to use and share their work.

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