

Information & Media Literacy



Digital literacy and well-being: Thinking critically and using technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate

INFORMATION & MEDIA LITERACY

**WE ARE CRITICAL
THINKERS AND
CREATORS.**

Instructions

Knowing when you can use other people's music, photos, words, videos, or artwork is important for making your own creative work and for school. Get one or more family members together to talk about all things copyright. Read the setup before doing the activity together!

Setup

Read aloud: Let's review a couple important words. **Copyright** is the set of legal rights someone has over what they create. **Fair use** is like a loophole for copyright, where you can use copyrighted work without permission—but only in special situations! It's important to know the difference.

Activity

Read aloud: Let's read examples of a few young people's creative work and talk about whether it's fair use or not. We can use the questions below to think about what we need to ask before we use someone else's work.

What is the purpose of reusing someone else's work in this situation?
Is it educational?

Does the new creation affect the original creator in a bad way?

Is the original work nonfiction (things that teach, inform, explain)?

Is only a small part of the original work used?

- Elijah wants to raise money for his dance team. He makes copies of a popular movie and sells them to friends and family members. (NOT fair use)
- Jo makes a collage of past presidents to make a statement about who gets represented in politics. (fair use)
- Caleb sees a cool dance on social media and records a video of himself doing the same dance for his YouTube channel. (fair use)
- A school morning news show plays a clip of a famous song at the beginning of each day's report. (fair use, depending on the length of the clip)
- A musician changes the lyrics of a song (not as a parody) and releases it as their own original work. (NOT fair use)

Learn more about how to look carefully at the news at commonsense.org/media-literacy-tips-for-families!