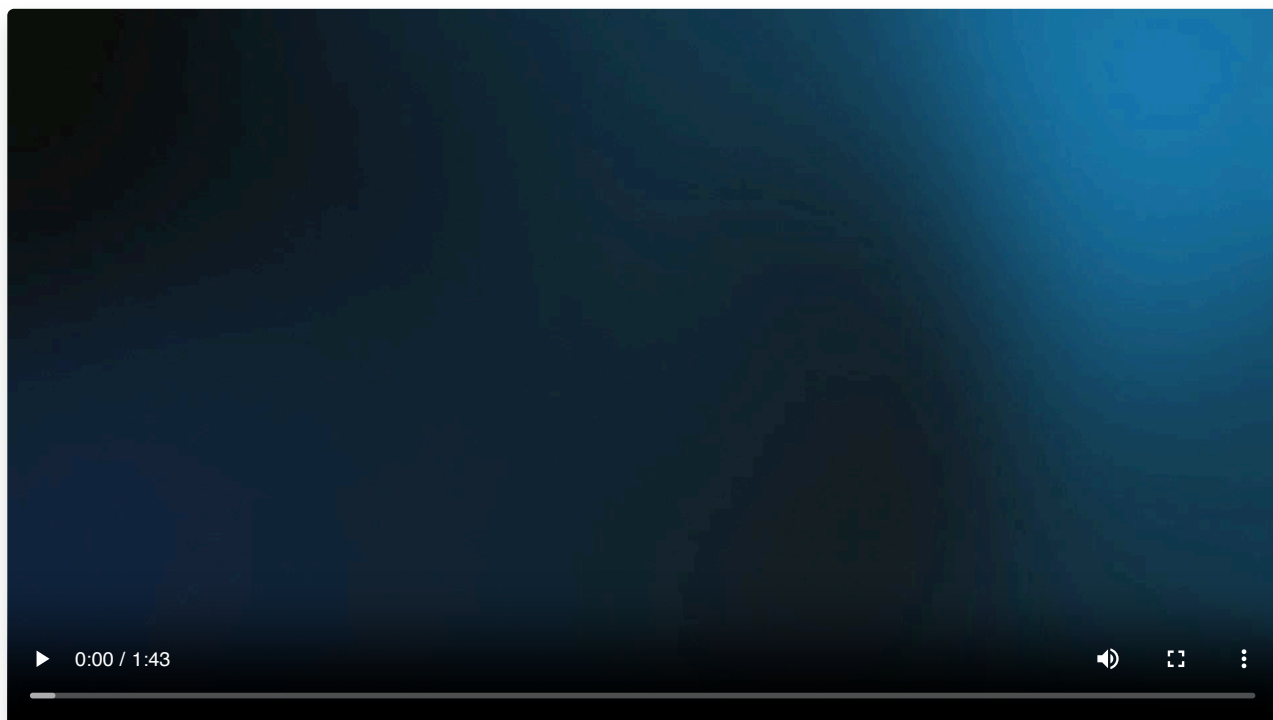


# Copyright

## Textbook

# Copyright



One of the awesome things about the internet is the opportunity for anyone to be a creator. Anyone from anywhere can create things and put them on the internet for others to see. With so many creative resources out there, the discussion around copyright laws is relevant not only for big companies, but for everyday people as well.

With so many resources so easily available, we might be infringing on copyright laws without even knowing it! The rise of computers in everyday life makes copying and transferring information easy. You also might have some ideas or creations that you want protected. Regulations around copying and distributing information need to be established.

Learning more about copyright is important for anyone who uses the internet. The use of material created by someone else without permission and presented as one's own is plagiarism and may have legal consequences.

## Copyright

So what does it mean to "own" an idea or project online? What are your rights? Material created on a computer is the intellectual property of the creator or an organization.

According to United States law, the person or company who owns the [copyright](#) are the only ones who are allowed to:

- Reproduce the copyrighted work
- Use the same concept as the copyrighted work in a different medium (for example, a book to a movie)
- Sell or rent copies of the work
- Publicly perform or display the copyrighted work without permission

Technically, the moment you create something on the computer, it is your property and you have the above rights to your creation. Copyrighted materials include images, music, video and text. If you create it as an employee as part of your job, your creation belongs to your employer.

Filing for an official [copyright](#) would give you the ability to enforce your copyrights in court.

Copyright laws can both help and restrict creative liberties. For example laws that mandate the blocking of some file-sharing websites may reduce online piracy but can restrict the right to access information.

But wait, you might be wondering about some examples you've seen that seem like copyright violations. A book titled *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* came out in 2009 written by Seth Grahame-Smith. Stories such as *A Christmas Carol* and *Treasure Island* have been recreated using Muppets. Aren't these copyright infringements?

## Public Domain



[Copyrights](#) don't last forever. In fact, in the United States, copyrights last the lifetime of the author plus another 50 years (although in many cases it gets extended to 70 years.) After that, they enter what's called the [Public Domain](#). Creative works that are in the public domain are free to use. *Pride and Prejudice*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Treasure Island* are all in the public domain and are therefore free to use.

## Other Ways to Use Information Legally

What are some other ways we can use information legally? The internet is full of information that is fully available to use without restrictions. How can we know what's free to use and what isn't?

As a general rule the use of material created by someone other than you should always be cited.

## Creative Commons



The [Creative Commons](#) are a public copyright license that enables the free distribution of an otherwise copyrighted work. This is used when the content creator wants to give others the right to share, use, and build upon the work they have created. The Creative Commons have a variety of licenses with different requirements, but basically they are free to use as long as we cite the source of that work. The use of material created by someone other than you should always be cited.

The Creative Commons allow information to be freely shared and built upon.

See the [video](#) on this website to learn more about the Creative Commons license.

You can learn what's in the Creative Commons [here](#).

Activity: Create something of your very own and get a creative commons license on it.

## Open Source

As you learn more about computer science, you will quickly see how similar the code in many computer programs are. A lot of software is called open source software. This means that people can use, study, change, and distribute the software and its source code to anyone and for any purpose. This is particularly useful for computer programmers.

Code that is taken from [open sources](#) is available to anyone. If you use code from a software that is not open source, you must cite the source of the code you used in the comments and documentation of your code. The acknowledgement should include the origin or original author's name.

Discussion Question: How does open source restrict or enable creative efforts? What are the pros and cons of the open source approach?

## Open Access



[Open access](#) is online research that is completely free to use without restrictions. Open Access helps increase transparency of information by making research available to all.

[Creative Commons](#), [open source](#), and [open access](#) have enabled broad access to digital information. They help make information easy to look up online and provide a highly useful resource for building your own projects! [Open access](#) is also highly important for research projects.

Discussion Question: How does open access restrict or enable creative efforts? What are the pros and cons of the open access approach?

## Fair Use

Beyond legal uses of information, there is a legal doctrine called the [Fair Use policy](#). Basically, fair use says that people can use copyright protected materials in basic everyday ways. Examples that would be considered fair use are criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research.

This leaves quite a bit of grey area that is up for interpretation. The following aspects are taken into consideration to determine Fair Use:

- (1) The **purpose** and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.
- (2) The **nature** of the copyrighted work.
- (3) The **amount** and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
- (4) The **effect** of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

In other words, writing a social media post all about the movie you saw last weekend would be an example of Fair Use. A film company duplicating the plot from the movie in their own film without permission would not be considered fair use.

Learn more about Fair Use [here](#).

Here's an entertaining [video](#) demonstrating how Fair Use works.



## Intellectual Property

Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind – like inventions, stories, songs, and designs. It's essentially owning an idea or unique creation, even though you can't physically hold it. Just like physical property, IP can be bought, sold, or licensed, and laws protect creators from unauthorized use. This system encourages innovation and rewards hard work. Common types include patents (for inventions), copyrights (for art/literature), and trademarks (for brands).

## Digital Privacy

Digital privacy means keeping your personal information, like your passwords and addresses, safe when you're online. It's about making sure no one can access your details without permission.

## Anti-Spamming Laws

Anti-spamming laws are rules that stop companies from sending you unwanted emails or messages. These laws make sure that companies ask for your permission before sending you ads and let you easily stop these messages if you don't want them.

## Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

An AUP is a set of rules that tells you how you should and shouldn't use computers and the internet at school or work. It helps make sure everyone uses technology responsibly and safely, like not visiting inappropriate websites or using school resources for cheating. By following these rules, you help keep the technology environment safe and respectful for everyone.

Research what your school's AUP is and comply with its directions.

## Consequences

The use of material created by someone else without permission and presented as one's own is plagiarism and may have legal consequences. Copyright can seem intimidating, but without too much effort we can learn about the different ways to legally use information. The use of material created by someone other than you should always be cited.

## Summary

With information so readily accessible on the internet, regulations about usage needed to be put in place. Something with a [copyright](#) is reserved for use as designated by the owner of the copyright. Items where their copyright has expired enter what is called the [Public Domain](#) and can be used by anyone. Items in the [creative commons](#) are usable as directed by the creator. Items in [open source](#) and [open access](#) are free to use by all.

## Questions (10)

### 1. What would be an example of a work in the Public Domain?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Choose the correct answer:

- A. A foreign film.
- B. A new song composed by a local band.
- C. A play written in the 1800s.
- D. A book written when you were a kid.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**2. Which of the following specifically helps with free information from research?**

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A. Public Domain
- B. Creative Commons
- C. Open Access
- D. Open Source

**3. Which of the following are works that used to be copyrighted but are now free to use?**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A. Public Domain
- B. Creative Commons
- C. Open Access
- D. Open Source

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**4. Which of the following is specifically used for free computer programs?**

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A. Public Domain
- B. Creative Commons
- C. Open Access
- D. Open Source

**5. Which of the following is a resource for free modern works if we align to the restrictions set down by the creator?**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A. Public Domain
- B. Creative Commons
- C. Open Access
- D. Open Source

**6. Which of the following aspects are taken into consideration to determine Fair Use? Select all that apply.**

SELECT MULTIPLE

**Select all that apply:**

- A. The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
- B. The age of the person using the work.
- C. The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.
- D. The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.
- E. The nature of the copyrighted work.

**7. In the United States, how long does a copyright last?**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A. 10 years
- B. The lifetime of whoever submitted the copyright
- C. 100 years
- D. The lifetime of the author plus another 50-70 years

**8. True or False: If you create a work as an employee as part of your job, your creation belongs to your employer.**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A. True
- B. False

**9. True or False: Copyright laws help you to defend your property in court.**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A. True
- B. False

**10. True or False: The use of material created by someone else without permission and presented as one's own is plagiarism and may have legal consequences.**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Choose the correct answer:**

- A. True
- B. False



## Answer Keys & Solutions

### Questions

#### 1. What would be an example of a work in the Public Domain?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Correct Answer:**

- A. A foreign film. ✗ Incorrect
- B. A new song composed by a local band. ✗ Incorrect
- C. A play written in the 1800s. ✓ Correct
- D. A book written when you were a kid. ✗ Incorrect

#### **Explanation:**

The public domain is works created in the distant past (50–70 years ago) that are now free to use.

#### 2. Which of the following specifically helps with free information from research?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Correct Answer:**

- A. Public Domain ✗ Incorrect
- B. Creative Commons ✗ Incorrect
- C. Open Access ✓ Correct
- D. Open Source ✗ Incorrect

#### **Explanation:**

Open access makes it so that research information is more available so science can move forward.

#### 3. Which of the following are works that used to be copyrighted but are now free to use?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Correct Answer:**

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| A. Public Domain    | ✓ Correct   |
| B. Creative Commons | ✗ Incorrect |
| C. Open Access      | ✗ Incorrect |
| D. Open Source      | ✗ Incorrect |

**Explanation:**

This refers to information that is now free for the public to use.

**4. Which of the following is specifically used for free computer programs?**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Correct Answer:**

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| A. Public Domain    | ✗ Incorrect |
| B. Creative Commons | ✗ Incorrect |
| C. Open Access      | ✗ Incorrect |
| D. Open Source      | ✓ Correct   |

**Explanation:**

This can be a source for coders to go to for help with their projects.

**5. Which of the following is a resource for free modern works if we align to the restrictions set down by the creator?**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Correct Answer:**

- |                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| A. Public Domain    | ✗ Incorrect |
| B. Creative Commons | ✓ Correct   |
| C. Open Access      | ✗ Incorrect |
| D. Open Source      | ✗ Incorrect |

**Explanation:**

Anyone can put information into here and lay down rules for its use.

## 6. Which of the following aspects are taken into consideration to determine Fair Use? Select all that apply.

SELECT MULTIPLE

### Correct Answers:

- A. The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole. ✓ Correct
- B. The age of the person using the work. ✗ Incorrect
- C. The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work. ✓ Correct
- D. The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes. ✓ Correct
- E. The nature of the copyrighted work. ✓ Correct

### Explanation:

The age of the person using the work doesn't matter.

## 7. In the United States, how long does a copyright last?

MULTIPLE CHOICE

### Correct Answer:

- A. 10 years ✗ Incorrect
- B. The lifetime of whoever submitted the copyright ✗ Incorrect
- C. 100 years ✗ Incorrect
- D. The lifetime of the author plus another 50-70 years ✓ Correct

### Explanation:

Legally it lasts for half a century.

## 8. True or False: If you create a work as an employee as part of your job, your creation belongs to your employer.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Correct Answer:**

A. True

✓ Correct

B. False

✗ Incorrect

**Explanation:**

If you are on the job, your work belongs to your employer.

**9. True or False: Copyright laws help you to defend your property in court.**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Correct Answer:**

A. True

✓ Correct

B. False

✗ Incorrect

**Explanation:**

Having an official copyright on something helps in court.

**10. True or False: The use of material created by someone else without permission and presented as one's own is plagiarism and may have legal consequences.**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

**Correct Answer:**

A. True

✓ Correct

B. False

✗ Incorrect

**Explanation:**

Use of someone else's creative work should always be cited.