

A KID'S GUIDE TO COPYRIGHT AND THE INTERNET

Jimmy and his brother wrote a song. They wanted to share it with their friends so they put the music and lyrics on the internet. A few months later, they heard their song being played on the radio but someone else was singing it! Someone had taken Jimmy's work and pretended it was his own work.

How would you feel if someone used your work as their own?

- ✓ When you take something that someone else created as your own, it is unfair to the person who created it. Sometimes it is even **against the law**. You should always follow copyright rules when using information you find on the internet.

What is Copyright?

- ✓ **Copyright** is a law that says the person who created a work has the right to decide how it is used. Something that has a copyright belongs to someone else and you shouldn't use it without their permission.

But I found some great information that I want to use for my project! Does this mean I can't use it?

- ✓ There is a rule called **Fair Use** that helps teachers and students. It allows students and teachers to use small amounts of a work for their projects. You can use:



What should I do if I want to use more?

- ✓ You should ask **permission** from the person who created the material. You will need to tell them what you want to use it for. You should follow whatever they tell you to do in order to use the work and make sure to give them credit in the end.

If I don't follow the rules, can I get in trouble?

- ✓ Yes. Not following copyright rules is against the law, even for students and teachers.

Remember these five key things to stay out of trouble:

- ✓ Always assume a work is copyrighted
- ✓ Follow the guidelines above
- ✓ Ask for permission
- ✓ Give the author credit
- ✓ Think of how you would feel if someone took your work!