

Digital Citizenship

11.1 Rights, Remixes, and Respect



Key Vocabulary

- # **inspiration:** something that influences, propels, or inspires you to create something new
- # **appropriation:** to use someone else's creative work to make something new, often without their permission



1. When people create things, do they ever get their inspiration from other people's creative work? What are some examples?



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- # Writing a song with the “sound” of another musician but with a different melody and different lyrics
- # Writing a poem that's in a style that resembles another poem but is about something different
- # Designing a website that uses some of the colors and “look” of another site, but has different content
- # Writing a paper based on a news story seen on TV or read about online, but in one's own words and with additional sources
- # Drawing a picture that's inspired by something read or heard



2. When people create things, do they ever appropriate, or use someone else's creative work, to make something new? What are some examples?



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- # Using a song as a soundtrack to a video
- # Posting someone else's writing on a blog
- # Adding pictures created by someone else to a Facebook profile (or Tumblr or some other social media page)
- # Showing a clip from a movie in a video review of that movie
- # Copying a paragraph from a news story and using it in a report for school



Copyright

copyright: a law that protects ownership of and control over the work someone creates, requiring other people to get the creator's permission before they copy, share, or perform that work



The creative work of others is protected by copyright. To use copyrighted work legally and ethically, people must observe the following rules:



Copyright Rules

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



Fair Use

- # **fair use:** the ability to use a small amount of copyrighted work without permission, but only in certain ways
- # Sometimes it is legal to use other people's creative work under the principle of fair use, but only if you give them credit and use it in certain ways.



Fair Use Rules

- # Use a small amount (not the whole thing)
- # Rework and use the material in a different way from the original
- # Add new meaning to the material and make something new out of it
- # Don't use the material for profit, and use it only for certain purposes, which include:

- # schoolwork and education (not for profit)
- # news reporting (they only play snippets)
- # criticism or social commentary (pointing out the song's meaning or impact)
- # comedy or parody



Fair use is not a clear-cut issue; it is judged on a case-by-case basis. Users claiming fair use must be able to defend themselves if someone accuses them of stealing work. (Note that even if you claim fair use, you still might be sued.)

Key Vocabulary

- # **sample:** to use a small piece of an existing creative work, usually music, in creating a new work
- # **remix:** to use an existing creative work and add to it, rearrange it, or mix it with other material to create something new



- # There is a big debate in the music industry over whether it is legal and ethical to sample and remix copyrighted materials without the permission of the original creators. There are various groups of people who have an interest or an opinion about the issue.
- # Think about the issue and brainstorm responses to the questions below. Write down your main points to these questions and share them during discussion.



Video: “Everything is a Remix”

<https://vimeo.com/14912890>



The groups are:

- # Musicians who use sampling and remixing in the music they create
- # Musicians who have been sampled or remixed without credit, permission, or payment
- # Fans who like both kinds of musicians
- # People in the recording industry who make money from selling music
- # Lawyers whose job is to protect artists from copyright violations



4. What do you think about musicians who sample and remix music claiming fair use?

4b. Is it fair use or stealing? Why?



5. How do musicians who sample and remix copyrighted materials without permission affect the original creators of the work?



6. How would it affect the creators of remixes if they had to get permission and pay for everything they used?



7. How are music fans affected by copyright law and fair use guidelines?



8a. How would society be affected if there were no copyright laws?

8b. How would society be affected if there was no fair use?



9. Summary: What are the different perspectives people in the music industry have on copyright and fair use?



10. What do musicians gain and lose by having their work sampled or remixed?



- # 11a. Why is it important to have legal and ethical rules for using other people's creative work?

- # 11b. What might happen if there were no rules?



Review

- # 12. _____ is using someone else's creative work to make something new, often without their permission.
- # a) Appropriation
- # b) Fair use
- # c) Copyright
- # d) Public domain



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13. There is a difference between inspiration and appropriation. It is considered acceptable to use others' work for inspiration, but it is often considered unacceptable to use, or appropriate, others' work without their permission. Put the actions below in the right category.

- # a) Using a song as the soundtrack to a video you have made
- # b) Writing a song in the same style as your favorite band, but with different notes
- # c) Writing a paper based on an article you read
- # d) Adding someone else's photos to your social networking profile



Inspiration	Appropriation

Inspiration

- c) Writing a paper based on an article you read
- b) Writing a song in the same style as your favorite band, but with different notes

Appropriation

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14. Read the following scenario. Then answer the question.
Top40 is a popular DJ who takes the first 10 seconds from the 40 most popular songs on the radio each week and blends them together to create one long song. Top40 does not change the parts of the songs he uses, and he does not ask permission from the original artists.

- # _____ Top40 violates copyright law every time he uses a song from the radio without asking permission.
- # a) True. If Top40 does not ask, then he does not have permission to use the songs.
- # b) False. Even though Top40 does not ask for permission, no one cares, so it isn't a big deal.
- # c) False. Because what Top40 does helps the original artists, copyright law does not matter.
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