

Lesson 1.4: Copyright & Fair Use

Subjects

Journalism, Language Arts, Social Studies

Estimated Time

One 25-minute class period

Grade Level

Middle and High School

Materials

Printouts of [Worksheet 1.4](#), posterboard or paper and markers

Overview

In developing video packages for the PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs program, your students may want to incorporate copyrighted materials, including photographs, music, film or video clips.

To help them decide when and how to use copyrighted materials as part of creative work for Student Reporting Labs, it's important to have a good understanding of copyright and fair use.

Warm Up Activity

Downloading Dangers

Ask students to put their heads down on their desks and close their eyes. With their eyes still closed ask students to raise their hands if they have ever downloaded a book, music, pictures or music illegally. Make sure to tell them that they you are only using this information for the purpose of today's lesson and the results will not leave the classroom. Have students put their hands down and report the results back to the class (probably everybody).

Main Activity

Copyright and Fair Use

- Together or in small groups have students read through [Worksheet 1.4](#).
- In partners, have the students generate questions they have after reading the definition of Fair Use and Transformativeness. Write these words on the board and have the class come up with their own definitions.
- Make posters of these definitions and post around the class or near computers that the students will use when editing their stories.

Standards

ISTE: Electronic Media Production, 9.0 Students will demonstrate ethics in the industry.

Common Core Standards:

Reading for Informational Text

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.7-12.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 7-12 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Writing

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7-12 .3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.