

Copyright Guidelines for Students

As you've learned, fair use allows you to use information within established limits to pursue knowledge and education. The four tests of fair use are confusing and guidelines used to clarify these tests still leave laws unclear. Consider the following when making decisions about using copyright protected materials:

1. Students can make a single copy of any material needed to do schoolwork or for personal research. Copies can be retained as long as you want but you can't make additional copies or sell the copy you made.
2. You must respect all the rights of the author or creator of a work you use. You may not make derivative copies or modify/change the original work. You can't perform or display the material except as a part of a class project or assignment.
3. If you want to use copies of materials outside of the classroom, you must get written permission from the author or company who holds the rights. This might require that you do some footwork to determine who to ask.
4. You can't copy software from the computers or use computers to burn copyright protected work such as music. (Remember all work is protected as soon as created unless signed over in writing to the public domain).

Using information according to fair use guidelines does not give you the right to plagiarize. Plagiarism happens when you don't give credit for work used, even when used appropriately. You must inform others where the original ideas came from through providing proper citations using a standard format. Plagiarism isn't limited to direct quotes but also occurs when restating ideas that weren't originally yours. As a rule of thumb – if you didn't know it before you came across it in another person's work you **MUST** cite.

If you use copyright protected information in a multimedia format as with a Powerpoint slide show, you must inform all viewers that works are protected by copyright law and further use is prohibited. This is typically done through use of a disclaimer.

Question: You know little about gene therapy but are required to learn about it for class. If you read a series of articles and use them to write a paper do you need to cite your sources? Explain.

How about if you put the articles away and write the gene therapy paper from memory? Explain.
