

# © Copyright

## What is copyright?

Copyright is the exclusive right to copy or replicate an original work. Only a copyright owner of a piece can replicate and reform or give permission to replicate or reform.

## What is Fair Use?

Four main criteria:

1. Must be reused for non-profit or educational purposes
2. Depends on the nature of the copyrighted work
  - does it have cultural significance?
  - Is it newsworthy?
  - is it a published or private?
3. How much of the original work is directly used
  - Was a part of the piece used or was it a direct copy?
  - Was the piece altered enough to make it distinct?
4. The potential market or value for the copyrighted work
  - Does the reproduction negatively impact the market value for the original? Does it add value to the original?
  - Parodies, commentary, and reviews fall under this criteria

## How long does a Copyright last?

Generally it lasts the life of the author, plus 70 years if it was published after 1978.

Anything published between 1922 and 1978 lasts 95 years.

Anything created before 1923 is public domain.

## How to Avoid Infringing Copyright

- Create your own work
- Don't reproduce another's work without their permission
- Use stock photography sites
- Pay for use
- Use Creative Commons

## Why It's Important

Copyright protects intellectual property. It allows artists to own the rights to what they create so that others cannot steal, reform, or reproduce their work for profit without the original artist's permission.

## What Can be Copyrighted?

Pretty much any creative work, including:

Visual art

Music

Plays

Films

Architecture

Computer software

Writing

Choreography

\*Ideas cannot be copyrighted, only tangible pieces

## How to Obtain Copyright

The answer is simple. You don't have to! Copyright is automatic as soon as a creative work comes into physical existence.

Though you don't need to register a copyright for something to be copyrighted, but it is useful to legally register. If you fear your work being stolen, legally declaring yourself as the author further protects your work. Registration can be done on the Copyright Office's website: <https://www.copyright.gov/>

## Creative Commons

Creative Commons (cc) is a non-profit organization that created a database for shared creative work. CC is a space where artists can share their works with other creative minds. It gives artists the ability to use their copyright how they wish. CC databases provide user generated content for others to use, and remix legally