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English I

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### Copyright in Schools

Copyright is important for everyone! Why? Copyright protects the creator or author of a body of “original work”, meaning anything new or unique. So why should we care about a creator of something; why should I not use something easily available? By obeying copyright, we show our appreciation of the “original works”, our respect for the author/creator of the item we admire, and our willingness to let a creator decide what is done with his/her works or how it is used (Friends of Active Copyright Education). A person should also understand that copyright is not trademark. Trademarks are the design, logo, or slogan for a company or industry; it is not limited to just words or just an image (Simpson, Copyright Catechism 4). But how does this apply in schools that have limited resources; as well as, teachers and students that can create their own works for educational purposes?

Educational institutions fall under a guideline of copyright called Fair Use. Simpson defines Fair Use as “a conditional right to use or reproduce certain copyrighted materials as long as reproduction or use of those materials meets defined guidelines” (Copyright for Schools 40). Most court cases have led to the development of four factors in judging “fair use”: 1) purpose & character of use, 2) nature of copyrighted work, 3) amount of work used, and 4) effect of use on market for or value of work (Simpson, Copyright for Schools 42-45).

Examples that do not fall under copyright law but rather license agreements include computer software and video games. Playing console games, or video games, in a classroom or

library does not violate copyright; however, it might be violating the game's license. Most games are for personal use in the privacy of home (Russell 18). So check those licenses before use at school!

Work Cited

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<<http://www.copyrightkids.org/whatcopyframes.htm>>.

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Simpson, Carol. Copyright Catechism: Practical Answers to Everyday School  
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