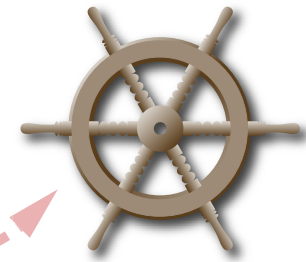


Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Copyright and Fair Dealing for Teachers

Teachers and students today have greater opportunities for learning as a result of a Supreme Court of Canada decision in 2012 which clarified how “fair dealing” applies in the classroom. Canada’s copyright law supports learning, fosters innovation, and drives knowledge creation by providing teachers and students with the legal right to deal fairly with the copyright-protected works of others.

It is important for teachers to have a working knowledge of “fair dealing.” Fair dealing permits teachers to communicate or use “short excerpts” from copyright-protected works for students in their classes without seeking permission from the copyright owner or paying copyright royalties, provided the dealing is for an educational purpose and is “fair.”

To ensure compliance with copyright law, the education community in Canada has established the *Fair Dealing Guidelines* to help educators determine what is “fair.” The Fair Dealing Guidelines describe a safe harbour, not absolute limits. Copying or communicating a copyright-protected work within the prescribed limits will, according to the advice of legal counsel, almost certainly be fair. Copying or communicating beyond those limits may, or may not, be fair.

The *Fair Dealing Guidelines* inform educators about their rights—as well as their obligations. For example, the guidelines prohibit systematic copying that cumulatively results in copying beyond the quantitative limits in the guidelines.

Throughout Canada, copyright is respected by teachers, school boards, and government ministries and departments. Respect for copyright is taught in schools. As responsible stewards of copyright and education, teachers understand the importance of complying with the *Copyright Act* and being aware of their rights and responsibilities when they use the copyright-protected works of others.

To learn more about copyright and fair dealing, teachers are encouraged to visit www.CopyrightDecisionTool.ca. With this on-line resource, teachers have, at their fingertips, the information they need to decide if a particular use of a short excerpt is fair or not. All teachers need to be aware of their rights—and their limits—when relying on fair dealing in their classrooms.

Visit (and bookmark!): www.CopyrightDecisionTool.ca

[From *The Teacher*, April 2018, Volume 56 Number 5, Page 12 ©NSTU 2018]

The Copyright Resource for Teachers

Teachers play a leadership role regarding copyright:

- Set an example of respect for copyright for your students.
- Know and respect the limits of the *Fair Dealing Guidelines*.
- Know your rights and obligations in the *Copyright Act*.
- When in doubt, contact your school principal for further information and assistance.



TEACHERS AND
COPYRIGHT
CopyrightDecisionTool.ca



The Copyright Decision Tool helps teachers decide, with a few clicks, whether fair dealing permits classroom use of print materials, artistic works, or audiovisual materials without getting copyright permission.

Can I use this in
the classroom?
The answer is at
your fingertips!



It takes 30 seconds
to find the answers with

CopyrightDecisionTool.ca

