Fair Use Checklist

Are you using an original work? The use of an original work is permitted by law under certain circumstances called Fair Use. Determining the Fair Use of an original work is the responsibility of the user, and requires critical thinking. Use this checklist to help you determine your rights and obligations for Fair Use. Think in terms of purpose, nature, amount, and effect.

Purpose

| Favoring Fair Use | Opposing Fair Use |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ☐ Teaching ☐ Research ☐ Scholarship ☐ Nonprofit educational institution ☐ Criticism ☐ Comment ☐ News reporting ☐ Transformative (changes it for new use) ☐ Restricted access (ex: to students) ☐ Parody | ☐ Commercial activity ☐ Profiting from the use ☐ Entertainment ☐ Bad-faith behavior ☐ Denying credit to original author |
| Nature | |
| Favoring Fair Use | Opposing Fair Use |
| ☐ Published ☐ Factual or nonfiction ☐ Important to educational objectives | ☐ Unpublished ☐ Highly creative (art, novel, play, music, film) ☐ Fiction |
| Amount | |
| Favoring Fair Use | Opposing Fair Use |
| ☐ Small quantity ☐ Portion used is not central to entire work ☐ Amount is appropriate for educational purpose | ☐ Large portion or entire work ☐ Portion used is central to the work |
| Effect | |
| Favoring Fair Use | Opposing Fair Use |
| ☐ User lawfully owns original work ☐ One or few copies made ☐ No significant effect on market for work ☐ No similar product marketed by copyright holder ☐ No licensing mechanism | Could replace sale of work Impairs market for work Licensing mechanism available Affordable permission available Numerous copies made Making it publicly accessible (ex: on Web) Repeated or long-term use |

This checklist is adapted from the Columbia University Libraries Copyright Advisory Office. https://copyright.columbia.edu/







