

Shared Reading Questions

Directions After your group has read through the assigned section of the “Understanding Copyright” handout, read and discuss the related questions.

Introduction

➡ What is the connection between free expression and books, blog sites, news, movies, music and video games?

The Purpose of Copyright

- ➡ Explain how copyright law helps promote new ideas as much as it protects the ownership of ideas.
- ➡ Explain why it is a good idea for a society to promote new ideas and knowledge.
- ➡ List three intellectual property rights protected under copyright law.
- ➡ What are some of the pros and cons of extending the time of protection under copyright law from 14 years to 28 years to 70 years and—in cases of corporations—to 95 years?

The Fair Use Doctrine

- ➡ Explain how the fair use doctrine allows people to use copyrighted materials. Give some examples.
- ➡ How has the use of digital copying and reproducing technology made fair use more important?
- ➡ Summarize in your own words the two questions that courts ask to determine if the use of copyrighted work is a fair use. How is transforming the materials different from just repeating the material in the way it was originally used?

Fair Use in Creative and Professional Communities of Practice

- ➡ Explain how the fair use doctrine has allowed documentary filmmakers to use copyrighted materials in ways they couldn’t before. How might the fair use doctrine affect other creative people, such as feature filmmakers, video game developers or songwriters?