

**ETHICAL USE OF INFORMATION**

Ethical use of information has always been an issue in research, but it has become more of an issue as \_\_\_\_\_ has made it easier than ever to be unethical. Just because the technology available makes it easy to cut and paste a paper that is due tomorrow doesn't make it right.

**Terminology Related to Ethical Use of Information**

- Intellectual property—property that results from original \_\_\_\_\_ thought (writing, art, music, etc.). The words in a book are the intellectual property of the person who wrote them. The image on a canvas is the intellectual property of the person who created that image.
- Copyright—the \_\_\_\_\_ that protects intellectual property.
- Plagiarism—“\_\_\_\_\_” of intellectual property.
- Once a copyright expires, a work is in what is called the \_\_\_\_\_. No permission is needed to copy those works (but the original creators must be credited to avoid plagiarism, and there are limitations as to how those works may be used).
- \_\_\_\_\_ allows for the copying and use of copyrighted works (without permission but with limitations) in education, news commentary, parody, and criticism.

**More about Copyright**

- Copyright is automatic—as soon as something is written down, recorded, etc., it is protected by copyright. No official registration or use of the copyright \_\_\_\_\_ is required.
- When you purchase an item protected by copyright (whether it's music, a video, or a computer program), you have the right to resell, rent, lease, or lend the item that you \_\_\_\_\_—but you don't have the right to make copies of it for other people.
- Copyright law is mostly \_\_\_\_\_ law (which means being sued rather than being charged with a crime). However, a violation involving more than 10 copies and amounting to a retail value of more than \$2,500 is a \_\_\_\_\_ under criminal law.
- Books, movies, videos, music, \_\_\_\_\_, software programs—all of these are copyrighted works.
- Copyright lasts for the creator's life plus \_\_\_\_\_ years (95-120 years for a corporation).
- Just because something is online doesn't mean it is there \_\_\_\_\_. Just because it's easily accessible doesn't mean you have the right to do whatever you want with it. What is out there on the Internet is covered under copyright law unless there is something indicating that you have the right to use it without requesting permission. To simplify the process of granting permission to use copyrighted works, Creative Commons was created so that someone who wants other people to be able to easily use his creations can create a \_\_\_\_\_ that gives permission to those people—with limitations.

The most important thing to understand and remember about copyright is that it exists to \_\_\_\_\_ those who create. The law exists so that the person who wants to become an author or an artist or a musician can do so. If there's no law protecting what that person creates and anyone can do anything they want with that person's creation (including giving it away for free to friends), how can that be a career? Copyright law does need to be revised because access to these creative works is so easy now with today's technology, but it is essential to have laws to protect those who create.

