

Copyrights and the Wiki

You should be aware of copyright laws when you are preparing your wiki. This includes simple links to other websites. The U.S. Copyright Law allows students fair use exemption although there are restrictions as to how much you can use. Some restrictions are:

- Motion media 3 minutes or 10% of entire movie whichever is less
- No more than 5 images by an artist or photographer
- Text material up to 10% or 1000 words of entire text whichever is less
- Music lyrics up to 10% but no more than 30 seconds
- Entire poem of less than 250 word (<http://www.adec.edu/admin/papers/fair10-17.html>).

For example, you could have a link to a motion media or embed it into your site but it must be 3 minutes or 10% of the entire movie before you need to specifically ask permission to use it. If it goes beyond that you will need to contact the creator and get permission (usually by e mail).

Exemptions are anything created by a U.S. federal employee. So sites associated with agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey, Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NASA are all exempt and you may link to their website without specific permission although you should give them credit on the wiki.

Somewhere on the wiki you should disclose that your website has been created according to the fair use guidelines for educational multimedia.

Part of the wiki project is to create two items that are your own original work from existing data. So rather than trying to get permission from National Geographic to link their video it might be better to review the video yourself and then create a podcast from it. You will still need to reference the video as a source of information but you have created something original from it.

References

(<http://www.adec.edu/admin/papers/fair10-17.html>) accessed on 1/18/2011