**Copyright overview for teachers**

***Remind me again, what is copyright?***

Copyright is the legal protection creators, such as authors, artists and musicians, have over the works they have created.

* Copyright is automatic. You don’t have to apply for it, and it doesn’t matter if there is no © symbol. If it is an original work, then it is legally protected by copyright.
* In Australia copyright generally lasts for 70 years after the death of the creator.
* The copyright holder (usually the creator) gets to decide how their work is used. They can allow others to copy, share or perform their work.
* If you reproduce someone else’s work without their permission, this is called a copyright infringement.

***Why is it important for this competition?***

Winning entries will be shared publicly online, so it is critical that they comply with copyright law. In our last competition, lots of fantastic entries were disqualified because they had infringed copyright. Students did this by including clips and photos found online that were used without appropriate permission to reproduce. Students should only include other people’s material/s (for example, images, music, video) in their videos if they have obtained permission from the owner of the material/s or met licensing requirements.

**Copyright declaration**

All entries will need to confirm that any third-party material (such as images, music, video) included in the entry is either free of copyright or is included with the appropriate license, permission and/or approval. Entrants will confirm this when submitting their entry form.

**Please note that we may, at any time, request entrants provide evidence that demonstrates they have obtained permission from the owner/s of the material/s or adhered to content license requirements. Failure to do so when requested could result in entries being disqualified from the competition.**

***When do you need permission?***

Put simply, if you haven’t created it yourself, and it isn’t available under a [creative commons license](https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/) (or equivalent), then you may need permission to include it in your video.

This includes:

* photos
* music
* illustrations
* book covers
* video clips/footage.

**Teachers:** It is important to note that the [statutory education license](https://help.copyright.com.au/hc/en-gb/articles/360000006316-What-is-the-Statutory-Education-Licence) that allows for content to be reproduced and adapted in a classroom context does not extend to this competition. Winning entries will be displayed on a public website and, as such, need to comply with Australian copyright law.

***How can teachers help students navigate copyright?***

There are number of ways you can strengthen students’ understanding of copyright and support students to create competition entries free of copyright concerns.

* Have them make the material themselves! This is the simplest way to avoid copyright headaches. In our last competition we saw animation, reenactments and stop motion all used to tell stories! These were some of the best entries. There are lots of free, open-source animation programs available online. Check out [Pencil2D](https://www.pencil2d.org/), [Blender](https://www.blender.org/) or [Krita](https://krita.org/en/). Encourage students to get creative about how they tell their stories.
* Source images from a free image library. Check out the handy list below.
* Encourage students to find material that is available under a [creative commons license](https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/).
* If students are using a program such as [Canva](https://www.canva.com/) to create their video, have them check out the images and sounds available for use within the program.
* Students could ask the person being profiled to provide them with images to use in their video.
* Have students ask for permission to include the content they want to use in their video. See below for a permissions request form that can be adapted to suit their needs.

***Sourcing copyright-free material***

There are many online sites that offer public domain, royalty-free and Creative Commons (CC) images and music that students can include in their videos. Some search tips and example sites:

* Use the [creative commons search function](https://search.creativecommons.org/)
* [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) is a good place for historical images – just make sure you check the license terms of the desired image
* The GiST [image bank](https://www.thegist.edu.au/image-bank/): home to a selection of STEM-related images that are free for education
* [Pixabay](https://pixabay.com/)
* [Pexels](https://www.pexels.com/)
* [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/)
* [Free music archive](https://freemusicarchive.org/)

***Asking permission***

Sometimes students find the perfect image online and really want to use it. The first step is to check the relevant website’s Terms of Use. It may be that the website makes its content available under a creative commons license.

If the desired image isn’t available under a creative commons (or equivalent) license, then the student will need to seek permission.

Sometimes it can be unclear who exactly owns the copyright. In this case, students could try sending a message via the ‘contact us’ section of the website. Once they’ve figured out who owns the copyright to the content, they will need to ask permission.

Here is an example students can adapt and use when seeking permissions.

Dear <INSERT © holder/content owner here>

My name is <insert your name>, and I am a school student entering a video competition run by the GiST. You can learn about the competition here. I am writing to request permission to reproduce <CONTENT DETAIL> in my video entry. I am seeking permission to reproduce this content for non-commercial, educational use only. The video may be displayed on the GiST website and social media platforms.

Kind regards,

<Insert name>

**Tip:** This process can take a while, so if students want to get permission to include something in their videos, encourage them to get onto it early! And also encourage them to have a backup option, in the event the copyright-holder says no or they’re unable to find the © holder.

***List and acknowledge sources***

Students will need to list all third-party materials they have used on the last slide of their videos, using the template provided in the They did what? PowerPoint presentation template.

This is important for two reasons.

1. It shows us where they found the content included in their video so we can be confident that they have either sought permission or are adhering to the content license terms.
2. Credit is given to the original content creator, which is the right (and legal) thing to do!

Some copyright holders or content sites might have instructions about how you credit them. Other times, you might just make it up. The important thing is to include a description or name for the content (so it can be identified) and the name of the copyright holder.

***Some example acknowledgement credits***

Flowering gum © Francis Moon, reproduced with permission.

Sydney Harbour Bridge, Greg O'Beirne, own work, Creative Commons BY 2.5, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=550802.

Telescope, [Pexels/Chokniti Khongchum.](https://www.pexels.com/@chokniti-khongchum-1197604/)

Picture of Jill Simpson reproduced with permission from Jill Simpson.

[Single steps](https://freemusicarchive.org/music/Ketsa/1000/single-steps/), Ketsa, Free Music Archive.

***Additional copyright education resources***

Want to learn more about copyright? Here are some other great resources.

* [Nothing beats the real thing](https://nothingbeatstherealthing.org.au/): This Australian site provides educational resources to teach students about good digital citizenship, intellectual property and copyright through the lens of film and TV. Check out [Is It All Your Own Work? Navigating copyright](https://nothingbeatstherealthing.org.au/education-resources/is-it-all-your-own-work-navigating-copyright/), a unit of work that helps primary and secondary students navigate copyright issues.
* [Australian Copyright Council](https://www.copyright.org.au/): Find fact sheets outlining various areas of copyright, including one tailored for [educators and students](https://www.copyright.org.au/browse/book/ACC-Education:-Copyright-Basics-INFO048/).
* [Smartcopying](https://smartcopying.edu.au/): Find a range of information sheets outlining copyright issues for Australian school students.