

COPYRIGHT

PROTECTING IDEAS

School is about learning. Learning can only be achieved by making sure each student is getting the information, ideas, and skills so they can use them all by themselves in their lives. That can't happen if students rely on using other students for their ideas. Copying or cheating is only hurting the student who does it by not letting them be a part of the learning process and not allowing them to grow. Mistakes are part of learning and they are acceptable, it is what we do after we make mistakes that determines if we will be a great student or leader.

Each writer, photographer, film maker, artist, or other person that has designed, written, or created something has to be respected for that achievement - including you! When you create something new, it is yours. We need to respect our new ideas and those of others for us to really create new things and make a better, more exciting future.



photo: Nationaal Archief

Understanding copyrights - item 1

Plagiarism

What is it?

Plagiarism is when a person copies another person's writing, photography, design, or other idea and uses it as if it is their own. Copying other people's words or ideas and acting like they are yours is dishonest, and in many places, illegal. Doing this can get you expelled from university or sued by the real owner of the work.

What can you do?

Don't worry, you are allowed to use other people's ideas and work, but you must always tell where the words or ideas came from so that people know where to look to find it and that it wasn't your idea. If you are writing the same words from a book, for example, you must put quotation marks around the words showing they are not yours and end with putting the name or names of the people who wrote the words after to show where the words came from. We all learn from each other, but make sure you are honest about what is your idea and what is an idea from someone else (Dowshen, 2011).

Understanding copyrights - item 2

Infringement

What is it?

Infringement is when you copy or misuse someone else's work without their permission. If you download, share, or copy something that you don't own, that is copyright infringement and is illegal.

What can you do?

In school, we are allowed to use many things that are owned by other people for the sake of learning. However, those same rules are different when you are at home or not in school. When you are at home, you are not allowed to copy or download things you don't have permission for. Make sure you ask your parents or teachers before downloading or copying anything to make sure it is ok. If it is something that costs money, then you must pay for it to use it. Always read the information on the website, DVD, video game, etc... to see what they say is the acceptable use for the item. You don't want people using your toys without asking, so don't use their stuff either (CSUSA, 2014).