

Vanderbilt University is committed to upholding copyright law while advancing its teaching mission. Questions about this checklist should be directed to Ask a Librarian (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/ask/>).

Author of Work: _____

Title of Work: _____

Prepared By: _____

Preparation Date: _____

Fair Use Checklist

Fair use is a grey area, but the following factors can guide you in determining if your chosen works can be used according to fair use guidelines.

Purpose

Favoring Fair Use

- Teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use)
- Research
- Scholarship
- Nonprofit educational institution
- Criticism
- Comment
- News reporting
- Transformative or productive use (changes the work for new utility)
- Restricted access (to students or other appropriate group)
- Parody

Opposing Fair Use

- Commercial activity
- Profiting from the use
- Entertainment
- Bad-faith behavior
- Denying credit to original author

Nature

Favoring Fair Use

- Published work
- Factual or nonfiction based
- Important to favored educational objectives

Opposing Fair Use

- Unpublished work
- Highly creative work (art, music, novels, films, plays)
- Fiction

Amount

Favoring Fair Use

- Small quantity
- Portion used is not central or significant to entire work
- Amount is appropriate for favored educational purpose

Opposing Fair Use

- Large portion or whole work used
- Portion used is central to or “heart of the work”

Effect

Favoring Fair Use

- User owns lawfully purchased or acquired copy of original work
- One or few copies made
- No significant effect on the market or potential market for copyrighted work
- No similar product marketed by the copyright holder
- Lack of licensing mechanism

Opposing Fair Use

- Could replace sale of copyrighted work
- Significantly impairs market or potential market for copyrighted work or derivative
- Reasonably available licensing mechanism for use of the copyrighted work
- Affordable permission available for using work
- Numerous copies made
- You made it accessible on the Web or in other public forum
- Repeated or long-term use

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