# ©opyright Flowchart

## Can I Copy It?

Start Here

**ORIGINAL?**

Are you the original creator of the content you want to use?

- Yes → Congratulations! You are the copyright holder. You may do what you like with your work.

  (You don't have to put a copyright © notice on your work, but it couldn't hurt.)

- No ↓

**GOVERNMENT?**

Was it produced by the U.S. Government? e.g. a report by NASA

- Yes → You may copy it.

  (You should acknowledge the source and there may be additional restrictions.)

- No ↓

**CREATIVE COMMONS / PUBLIC DOMAIN?**

Has the copyright been waived or expired (usually after more than 100 years)? e.g. Shakespeare

- Yes → You may copy it.

  (You should acknowledge the source and there may be additional restrictions.)

- No ↓

**FAIR USE: COMMENTARY?**

Are you using it to critique it, comment on it, make a parody, or report the news?

- Yes → You <u>might</u> be able to copy it.

  Whether or not you get into legal trouble depends on:

  1: What exactly did you copy?

  2: What did you use it for?

  3: How much did you copy?

  4: What effect did your copying have on the copyright holder?

  (You don't legally have to acknowledge the source, but it's always a good idea.)

- No ↓

**FAIR USE: EDUCATION?**

Are you using it for educational purposes? e.g. part of a class assignment

- Yes → You might be able to copy it. (…)
- No ↓

**FAIR USE: TRANSFORMATION?**

Are you transforming it or remixing it to create something new and unique?

- Yes → You might be able to copy it. (…)
- No ↓

**PERMISSION?**

Did you get permission from the copyright holder?

- Yes → You may use it as agreed.
- No → You may <u>not</u> copy it.

  (Acknowledging the source will <u>not</u> keep you out of trouble!)

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