



### Social Media and Plagiarism

What's Fair Use and What's Theft?









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tbuhl 15m

@gideonstrumpet IT means I don't want my tweets in a story or on a blog

#### gideonstrumpet

21m

.@tbuhl's twitter profile proclaims "no tweets are publishable".
What does that mean?



#### gideonstrumpet

.@tbuhl ok thanks. I don't know how you prevent that, though. I could write a post quoting you.

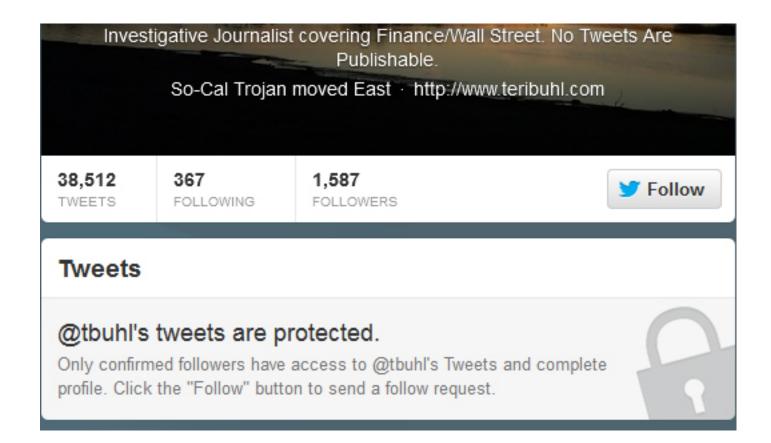


13m

## 930

tbuhl

@gideonstrumpet then I would sue you because I have stated my tweets are not on record comments



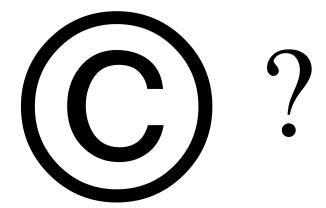
- Questions to consider
  - Is content on Twitter copyrighted?
    - Tweets (text)
    - Photos
  - If it is, what fair use rules apply?
    - Can I link?
    - Can I republish?
    - Can I use for commercial intent?

### Copyright Law: The Basics

### Copyright Infringement

Using someone else's original work without obtaining the copyright owner's permission

### What is copyright?



### Copyright protects property



### Rights protected by a copyright

- Reproduction
- Adaptation
- Distribution
- Public performance
- Public display

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The copyright of the cover art from Bruce Springsteen's 1984 Born in the USA album is just one of several associated with the musical work

### Purpose of copyright

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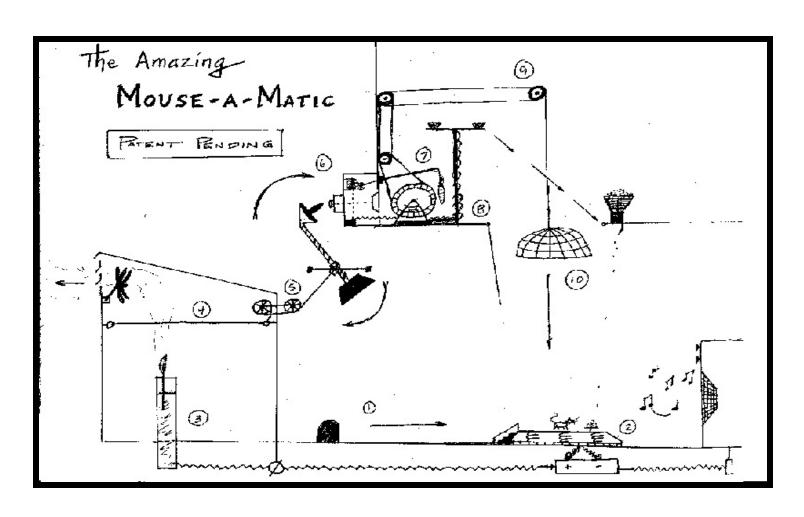
- Recognized in U.S. Constitution
  - Encourage progress through advancement of arts & sciences
    - Reward creative efforts
    - Promote societal knowledge

### Intellectual Property

- Copyright
- Patent
- Trademark

• Plagiarism

### Copyright v. Patent Protection



### Copyright v. Trademark

















A few examples of some well-known trademarks and service marks

### Copyright v. Trademark

#### Student footwear choice reflects lifestyle

When it comes to what shoes to wear, the decision for students might be more difficult than one would think.

Shoe makers are targeting young people with aggressive ad campaigns, and keeping up with the Joneses when it comes to footwear can be an obsession for many students. Some experts say shoe choices can tell a lot about a student and his/her interests.

Depending on where students buy their shoes — whether it be the mall or at a discount outlet — can speak volumes about the student as well, according to a study by a shoe expert.

"Sometimes students worry too much about what shoes they are going to wear," said John Doe, a shoe specialist based out



The Test:

Is there a likelihood of consumer confusion?

### Copyright v. Plagiarism

• Posing as the creator of a work that is not your own

Not a legal term

Academic crime with variable definitions

### What can be copyrighted?

Requirement 1: Originality

Requirement 2: Minimal Creativity

Requirement 3: Fixation

# Copyright law protects material on the Internet!

### Copyright can protect:

- Photos
- Stories
- Illustrations
- Cartoons
- Advertisements
- ...even Wallpaper

### Ideas

### **Facts**

- Most federal government records
- Some state and local government records



New York, NY, September 25, 2001 — A rescue worker overlooks the rubble from the collapsed World Trade Center. Photo by Mike Rieger/ FEMA News Photo (www.photolibrary.fema.gov)

- Odds and Ends
  - Titles
  - Slogans
  - Short phrases
  - Names
  - Familiar symbols
  - Lists of ingredients
  - Basic instructions
  - Simple blank forms

#### Just do it!

titanic

days of our lives



- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. butter
- 1 egg
- 3 c. flour

Mix together. Bake on cookie sheet at 325°

#### The sound of music



Oops, I did it again.

 Works whose copyright has expired



#### Arts & Entertainment

### Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;
Whole misadventured piteous overthrows
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,
And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,

Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage; The which if you with patient ears attend, What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

SCENE I. Verona. A public place.

Enter SAMPSON and GREGORY, of the house of Capulet, armed with swords and bucklers

SAMPSON

Gregory, o' my word, we'll not carry coals.

GREGORY

No, for then we should be colliers.

SAMPSON

I mean, an we be in choler, we'll draw.

GREGORY

Ay, while you live, draw your neck out o' the collar.

SAMPSON

I strike quickly, being moved.

GREGORY

But thou art not quickly moved to strike.

SAMPSON

A dog of the house of Montague moves me.

GREGORY

To move is to stir; and to be valiant is to stand: therefore, if thou art moved, thou runn'st away.

SAMPSON

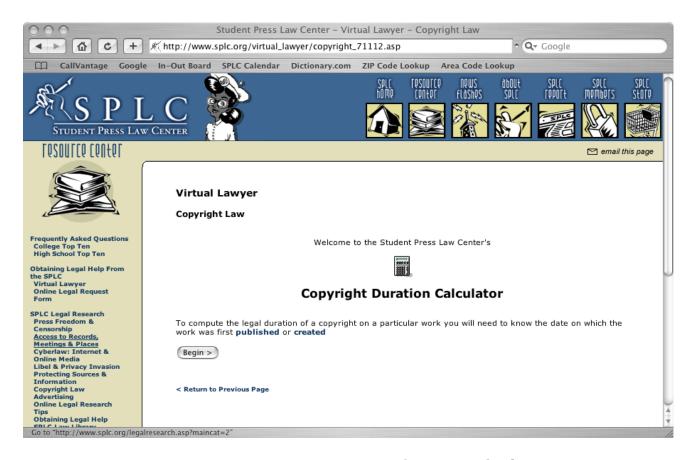
A dog of that house shall move me to stand: I will take the wall of any man or maid of Montague's.

GREGORY

That shows thee a weak slave; for the weakest goes to the wall.

SAMPSON

### How long does a copyright last?

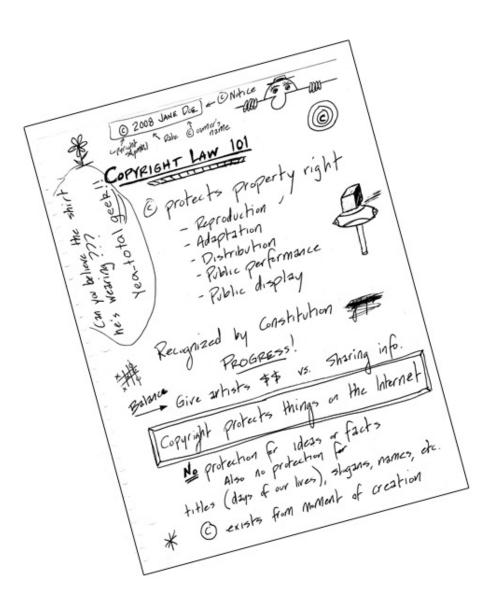


www.splc.org/copyrightcalculator

## How is a work copyrighted?

• Copyright exists from the moment a work is created





### Copyright MythBuster #1

A work that does not have a copyright notice (e.g., © Copyright 2006 Student Press Law Center) is not protected by copyright and can be used freely.

False: Since 1989, a copyright notice has been optional and its inclusion or omission on a work does not affect the validity of a copyright.

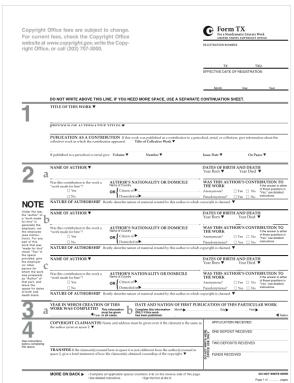
### Copyright MythBuster #2

A work must be registered with the U.S. Copyright Office to receive copyright protection.

False: Formal registration of a copyright is not required.

## What about registration?

- Form
- Fee
- Submit copies
- Some added benefits



www.copyright.gov

### Who owns a copyright?

- "Work for hire" doctrine
  - Work owned by employer
  - Formal employer/employee relationship required
- Most high school student journalists are likely "independent contractors" who own the works they create
- Importance of a copyright agreement

#### The General Rule

If you didn't create it and/or you don't own the copyright to it, you must get permission to use it

### Copyright MythBuster #3

Including a credit line on a copyrighted work is enough to avoid copyright problems.

False: The law requires actual **permission** from the copyright owner, not just attribution.

#### The High Schoolian 1987

#### People in the News: The Year in Review



Photo Courtesy of Famous People Magazine

Amidst a throng of photographers, the Queen Mother joins Prince Charles and Princess Diana for the London world premier of the film *84 Charing Cross Road* 

Absent actual permission, a credit line will not protect against claims of copyright infringement

### Obtaining copyright permission

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This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, business establishments, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

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Copyright Notice

Publisher's Contact Information

### Obtaining copyright permission

- Written copyright permission request usually required and should include:
  - Contact information
  - Expected publication date
  - Number of copies you intend to produce
  - Publication price (if any)
  - Non-profit statement (if applicable)
  - Clear description of intended use
  - Response deadline
- Written permission response preferred

### Purchasing copyright licenses

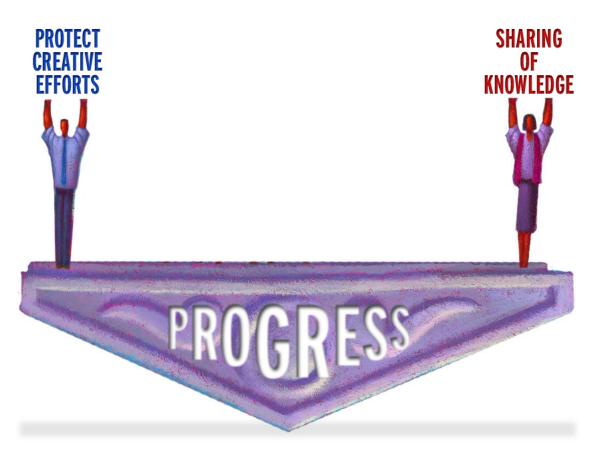


#### The General Rule

If you didn't create it and/or you don't own the copyright to it, you must get permission to use it

Except...

#### Fair Use: An Exception to the Rule



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• Not every use by a student media organization is a fair use

• What is the purpose and character of the use?

- What is the purpose and character of the use?
- What is the nature of the copyright-protected work?

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- What is the nature of the copyright-protected work?
- How much of the original work is used?

#### Copyright MythBuster #4

You can safely use up to 250 words of text or up to 30 seconds of a song or movie without violating copyright law.

False: Copyright law does *not* recognize any **absolute** word/time allowances or other "safe harbors" for use of copyright-protected works.

- What is the purpose and character of the use?
- What is the nature of the copyright-protected work?
- How much of the original work is used?
- What is the effect of the use on the potential market value of the original work?

### Madonna comes out kicking in latest CD

Just when people thought Madonna was getting old, she came out with her biggest dance album yet, "Confessions on a dance floor."

Madonna returns to her roots on the dance floor with this album, and the first single, "Hung Up," will surely be played



Source: www.madonna.com

out in every club in the country. You won't find any ballads on this CD, just a bunch dance beats that will get

### Superman flies onto the big screen, again

You may have already had your share of movies with the man in blue, but he's back, and critics are raving about the new look and attitude.

In the film, After a long visit to the lost remains of

the planet Krypton, the Man of Steel returns to earth to become the peoples savior once again and reclaim the love of Lois Lane, according to IMDb.com, an online



Source: supermanreturns.warnerbros.com

### Peanuts' creator Charles Schulz dies

Charles Monroe Schulz, an iconic American cartoonist best known worldwide for his Peanuts comic strip, died at age 77 on Feb. 12, 2000. He was born in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1922, where he be-



Source: www.snoopy.com

gan his cartoon career. After returning from service in World War II, Schulz sold his comic panel "Li'l Folks" to the St. Paul Pioneer Press in 1947. By 1950, he had syndicated what became the Peanuts strip across the nation.

# Top Five Favorite Cartoon Characters of the Class of 2010

- #1 Bart Simpson
- #2 Stewie Griffin
- #3 Eric Cartman
- #4 Homer Simpson
- #5 Peter Griffin



Image source: www.thesimpsons.com

\*Survey based on poll of 210 members of Central High School Class of 2010 taken on April 11, 2007.

# Copyright and Parody

- Parody of original must be obvious
- "Conjure Up" Test
- Creativity counts
- Minimal impact on market value of original



# Penalties for Copyright Infringement

Actual damages

Statutory damages

• Injunctive relief

#### U.S. Copyright Office Web site:

www.copyright.gov

 You retain your rights to any Content you submit, post or display on or through the Services. By submitting, posting or displaying Content on or through the Services, you grant us a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free license (with the right to sublicense) to use, copy, reproduce, process, adapt, modify, publish, transmit, display and distribute such Content in any and all media or distribution methods (now known or later developed).

 Tip: This license is you authorizing us to make your Tweets available to the rest of the world and to let others do the same.

- License gives rights for Twitter to publish content
- License gives rights for others to "do the same."
- Retweeting "covered" by TOS
- What about publishing elsewhere?

#### Copyrighted Photos on Twitter



- Photographer Daniel Morel sues Washington Post and AFP for publishing and selling his photo from Haitian earthquake
- Judge rules in January 2013 that Twitter's TOS does not give new agencies the right to publish without the photo owner's permission

#### The Answer: Fair Use

- Fair Use Tests
  - The purpose of the use (commercial, educational)
  - The nature of the copyrighted work
  - The amount of the copyrighted work used when compared to the whole work
  - The effect the use will have on the market value of the work

#### Purpose of Use: Is it "Transformative?"

- Commentary
- Criticism
- News Reporting
  - Original work has news value
  - Matters of public importance
  - Matters of public interest
  - Public benefits for knowledge

#### Nature of the Work

- Fiction versus non-fiction
  - Far more latitude with non-fiction
  - Cannot copyright facts
- Published versus non-published
  - Far easier to claim fair use for published work
  - Some unpublished work also subject

#### **Amount of Work Used**

- No clear guidelines for how much is "legal"
- Limit use to as little as possible to achieve your editorial purpose
- Cannot diminish value of the original work
- Substantial quotation easier to justify on published rather than non-published works

#### Effect on Market Value

- Content distributed at a fee more protected than content distributed for free
- Copyright holder need only prove potential market, not actual one
- If use increases market for the copyrighted work, more likely to find fair use legitimate

#### Other Considerations

- Public Doman
- Government data
- Facts are not copyrightable
- Private communications usually a different matter
- Beware the DMCA as ISPs may remove content you feel is not protected

### What About Facebook?

- Similar rules as Twitter
- Reposts on Facebook probably fine
- "Quoting" of Facebook text posts in news stories most likely is fair use
- Taking photos may violate copyright of original photographer—but not Facebook poster

# Can you sue Twitter & Facebook over a member's defamatory comments?

See § 230 of the Federal Communications Decency Act

http://www.eff.org/issues/bloggers/legal/liability/230

### Finkel v. Dauber

ooooh i like this group.

BTW the 11<sup>th</sup> cent, unbeknownst to many, acquired AIDS while on a cruise to Africa (with another member of the group who shall remain nameless).

While in Africa she was seen for a horse. NICHTE NICHTE eleventh cent! I mean you know . . . I kinda felt bad for the

eleventh cent...but then again I felt WORSE for the horse. ... (Leah Herz 1/29/07, 5:04pm)

In regards to the 7th cents comments,,, it was not from an African cruise... it was from sharing needles with different heroin addicts, this led to cross "mojination" which caused the HIV virus... she then persisted to screw a baboon which caused the epidemic to spread.

(Jeff Schwartz 1/29/07, 7:43pm)

I heard that the 11<sup>th</sup> cent got aids when she hired a male prostitute who came dressed as a sexy fireman. apparantly .. she was lonely, because her friends no longer associated with her. her sexy fireman prostitute was her only company. in addition to acquiring aids, this nameless 11<sup>th</sup> cent aquired crabs, and syphillis.

(Melinda Danowitz, 1/29/07, 8:00 pm)

also i heard that the stds (sexually transmitted diseases) she got were os bad that she morfed into the devil in one of our pictures...oops did i reviel the 11<sup>th</sup> cent?>

(Michael Dauber, 1/29/07, 8:32 pm)

• 2010, NY case

Secret Facebook group

Victim of the bullying sues for defamation

## Celebrity/News Online Defamation examples

- Kim Kardashian & the cookie diet
  - http://tinyurl.com/yjssrey
  - Follow-up analysis:
     <a href="http://writ.news.findlaw.com/hilden/20100104.html">http://writ.news.findlaw.com/hilden/20100104.html</a>
- Courtney Love
  - http://tinyurl.com/cgqerq
  - Update: http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/04/courtney-love-settles-twitter-defamation-case/?emc=eta1
- Gossip sites:
  - Cincinnati Bengal cheerleader case
    - http://tinyurl.com/2uk3a2b
    - Update: <u>http://www.usatoday.com/story/ondeadline/2012/10/08/cincinnati-bengal-cheerleader-teacher-student-sex-teen/1619991/</u>
    - Update 2: http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/midwest/2013/01/25/278781.htm

## Celebrity/News Online Defamation examples

### Corey Clark:

```
http://www.pressconnects.com/article/
20130130/ENT/301300065/Former-Idol-
contestant-sues-120-million-defamation-claim
```

### Mike McQueary:

```
http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/college-
football/news/20130115/penn-state-mike-
mcqueary/
```

## Business Interests& Online Defamation

- Apartment Mold:
  - http://consumerist.com/2010/01/twitter-defamation-lawsuit-dismissed.html
- Unfavorable tweets against businesses:
  - Restaurant Yelps: <a href="http://nyti.ms/fll6iP">http://nyti.ms/fll6iP</a>
  - T & J Towing v. Kurtz, Facebook group: Kalamazoo Residents against T&J Towing
    - http://www.citmedialaw.org/blog/2010/tj-towing-v-kurtz-weve-got-courtdocuments
    - Update & what is S.L.A.P.P.? <a href="http://nyti.ms/d7C2so">http://nyti.ms/d7C2so</a>
  - "Worst car dealership in the world"
    - <a href="http://www.citmedialaw.org/sites/citmedialaw.org/files/2009-12-04-Route%206%20Hyundai%20Demand.pdf">http://www.citmedialaw.org/sites/citmedialaw.org/files/2009-12-04-Route%206%20Hyundai%20Demand.pdf</a>
    - http://www.citmedialaw.org/sites/citmedialaw.org/files/2009-12-19-Alascio %20Response.pdf

## Business Interests& Online Defamation

- Doctors and online reviews:
  - http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/ some-doctors-try-to-squelch-online-reviews/2011/11/29/ gIQA2KQhYQ\_story.html
- Pink slime suit:
  - http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/09/13/bpi-sues-abcnews-for-pink-slime-defamation/%20?test=latestnews

### Reputation Management Services





### **False Statements**

- Fib on Facebook? Law calls it criminal.
  - http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/11/17/ fib-on-facebook-us-law-calls-it-criminal-criticswarn/

- Bill would criminalize posing as someone else:
  - http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/ 2013/01/02/bill-would-outlaw-posing-as-othersonline/1805771/

### Misc. Free Speech Issue: Students' right to free speech

- "Faked" profiles
  - Mix of rulings
    - Fake MySpace profile for a Texas principal *Draker v. Schreibner*
    - Facebook parody profile of principal Trosch by high school student Layshock v. Hermitage School District
    - 14 y o middle school student created fake MySpace J.S. v. Blue Mountain School
    - <a href="http://blog.ericgoldman.org/archives/2012/03/suspension">http://blog.ericgoldman.org/archives/2012/03/suspension</a> for 1.htm
  - Application of *Tinker v. Des Moines* (1969 US S. Ct. case). Black armbands & school ban
- Opinion piece:
  - Sophomoric free speech, <a href="http://usat.me?39347532">http://usat.me?39347532</a>

### Free Speech Issue: Employee's right to free speech

#### Workplace rants on social media are headache for companies

#### The Teacher Cases:

- PA teacher suspended (with pay??!!) for calling her students "lazy whiners" <a href="http://usat.me?43808478">http://usat.me?43808478</a>
- NJ 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher says she "felt like a warden overseeing future criminals" <a href="http://tinyurl.com/3bngqhb">http://tinyurl.com/3bngqhb</a>
  - Update: <u>http://blog.ericgoldman.org/archives/2013/01/tenured\_school\_1.htm</u>

#### **Employee examples:**

- Policies barring Eee from depicting companies "in any way" on social media sites
  - EMT fired b/c crit. she posted on fb, "a 17": http://nyti.ms/djca6U
    - Federal right to form/discuss unions & working conditions

## Free Speech Issue: Anonymous Speech

- Anonymous publishing as a First Amendment right
  - McIntyre v. Ohio Elections Commission US S. Ct 1995
  - http://gilc.org/speech/anonymous/
- Online speech, accomplished using remailers
  - A series of servers that strip our identifying info & sub in anonymous code or random numbers.
     (chained remailing)

## Does the First Amendment give you the right to speak anonymously online?

- Yes, but you do not have the right to speak falsely & injuriously. Melvin v. Doe
- Defamation example below:



### **Common Newsroom Scenarios**



## Newsroom quotes tweet of newsworthy person in on-air story?

Ted Nugent @TedNugent

Goodluk America u just voted for economic & spiritual suicide. Soulless fools





## Taking Facebook profile picture to use in story?



## Newsroom uses first photos of breaking news from Instagram?



## Linking to Facebook profile in news story on the web?



## Newsroom pastes screen shot of Facebook post in news story?



Patty Gamblin The city of Columbia and Boone Country just LOVE taxing us to death! I did my part yesterday and VOTED NO!

19 hours ago · Like · ₼3



Dave Albin Please tell me how a new building and 20 more dispatchers will keep me safer than well trained, well paid officers? Don't forget to build a new garage for the "Swatmobile" we really needed that also.

19 hours ago · Like · ₼ 1

### Final Takeaways

-from Digital Media Law Project

- Use only as much of the copyrighted work as is necessary to accomplish your purpose or convey your message
- Use the work in such a way that it is clear that your purpose is commentary, news reporting, or criticism
- Add something new or beneficial (don't just copy it -- improve it!)
- If your source is nonfiction, limit your copying to the facts and data
- Seek out Creative Commons or other freely licensed works when such substitutions can be made and respect the attribution requests in those works.





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What's Fair Use and What's Theft?



