

# Digital Citizenship Tip of the Month

## Copyright and Fair Use

Now that school is really going and students are working hard to complete projects, papers, and assignments, it is a great time to remind them about Copyright and Fair Use. Because of the ease of making a digital copy, students may not realize what the rules are about reusing digital content from someone else and improperly use it.

Examples include:

- Using copyrighted material that needs permission to reuse.
- Not using proper citations so the person who originally created the content can get credit.
- Taking credit for something that someone else created, which is plagiarism.

Middle school students may or may not realize that improper citation and plagiarism are a form of cheating. They may or may not realize that by not following copyright and fair use, they may be engaging in illegal activity that can have severe consequences. By helping them understand these principles, they can know the rules of the road of using content to be good digital citizens.

For those who want to go more in-depth with their students, there is an excellent lesson on this subject in the 7th grade Digital Citizenship curriculum that can be found here:

<http://parentconnections.canyonsdistrict.org/2019-digital-citizenship-week.html>



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