Aside from movies, what are some examples of other copyrightable materials that I should be worried about?

- Literary works
- Musical works, both score and lyrics
- Pictorial/graphics works, art, sculpture and photographs
- Audiovisual works, motion pictures, videos, video games
- Computer software

What kinds of things do I have to worry about if I am creating a website?

- You may not place any materials owned by others, i.e. copyrighted works, on your webpage without the expressed permission of the copyright owner. (Examples: cartoons, articles, photographs, songs, software, graphics scanned in from published works or other web pages).
- Assume materials you find on the internet are copyrighted unless a disclaimer or waiver is expressly stated. You may include quotations of a few words provided you identify the author and the work from which the quotation is taken.
- If you want to include something from another webpage in one of your own webpages, then link to it rather than copy it.
- You may not place any pictures or videos of people on a webpage without the permission of the people in the picture or video. Every person has a right of privacy which includes the right to restrict the use of his/her own image. If you take pictures at events or of your members, be sure to obtain a release waiver from each individual providing you permission to use his or her image. Please be aware, the picture or video may be protected by copyright if you did not take it yourself.
- Defamation is illegal (making a false statement of fact that is demeaning).

When do I NEED to obtain copyright permission?

a. Events open to the public (including students, faculty, staff and community members who are not general members of the student organization). i.e. If any person attending the event is not listed on the student organization’s membership roster, then copyright permission must be obtained.

b. Any event that is planned and advertised (on the internet, through flyers or handbills, or through e-mail to non-organization members).

*** PLEASE NOTE: This legal requirement applies regardless of whether an admission fee is charged.

Adapted from:
When can I show a movie WITHOUT obtaining copyright permission?

a. Home viewing: A student may show lawfully obtained (rented or purchased) movies to family members or a small group of friends in his/her own residence hall room or off-campus apartment/house.

b. Educational use: You must meet the following two criteria:
   1. Viewing must not be open to the general public.
   2. The educational component is significant. It must be part of a class, workshop, or series* and there should be a theme to the event or a presentation, speaker, or forum that accompanies the viewing.

*PLEASE NOTE: The event does not need to be university sponsored or academic credit-bearing. The person giving the academic presentation can be a student, professor, outside speaker or other. The important criterion is not the presenter, but rather, the quality of content of the presentation and the connection to educational advancement.

How does this apply to me?

Student Organizations:
The student organization’s general membership may be contacted and invited to watch the movie or movie series. However, public advertisements (including online) for the event are not permitted. Members of the organization may be e-mailed but creating an event on the Campus Event Calendar or Facebook, or distributing paper flyers is not permitted.

Residence Halls:
A residence hall may not have a “movie night” without proper licensing. If a group of students get together on a spontaneous basis, such as, on a Tuesday evening everyone on a particular floor decides to watch a DVD and order pizza, no copyright permission is needed. However, if a residence hall programming board decides to host a regular “movie night” every Thursday and invite all residents in the building, copyright permission is needed.

Classrooms:
Faculty members may show a film for educational purposes if: a) it is during face-to-face teaching activities, or b) it is shown in a classroom or similar place devoted to instruction. The audience is limited so that only persons enrolled in or teaching the class (and necessary staff) may attend. In addition, there should be an educational component such as a discussion or panel after the film.

How to obtain copyright permission:

1. Obtain a license from a Motion Picture Distributor.
   
   Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.
   http://www.swank.com
   (800) 876-5577

   Criterion Pictures
   http://www.criterionpicusa.com
   (800) 890-9494

   Motion Picture Licensing Corporation (MPLC)
   http://www.mplc.com
   (800) 462-8855

   Kino International
   www.kino.com/theatrical/
   (800) 562-3330

   Costs typically range from $200-$650. Licensing fees are determined by such factors as the number of times a particular movie is going to be shown, how large the audience will be, etc.

2. Contact the producer, copyright holder, or film distributor (usually a movie company like Warner Bros). They can provide you with a written waiver to the copyright allowing you to show the movie or film.


Adapted from:
