

Intellectual Property and Copyright

As you join in the scholarly conversation you have both a legal and ethical obligation to respect the intellectual property rights of others and to protect your own intellectual property. So what does that mean? Let's start with some definitions.

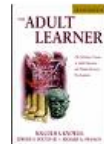
What is Intellectual Property?

The World Intellectual Property Organization defines Intellectual Property in the following way:

"Intellectual property refers to creations of the mind: inventions, literary and artistic works, and symbols, names, images, and designs used in commerce" (World Intellectual Property Organization, n.d.).

Intellectual property is legally protected by such mechanisms as:

Copyright for literary and artistic works



Patents for inventions



™ Apple, Inc.

Trademark for symbols, names or images



™ Coca-Cola Company

In an academic setting you are most likely to have questions about literary works which is why an understanding of copyright is important.

What is Copyright?

According to the United States Copyright Office:

"Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States ([title 17](#), U. S. Code) to the authors of "original works of authorship," including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual works. This protection is available to both published and unpublished works" (July, 2006).

As a learner and future author how do Intellectual Property and Copyright affect me?

Coursework and Dissertation

Review Capella University's [Intellectual Property Policy](#). It explains your rights to intellectual property you create in your course work. Capella also has some limited rights to your dissertation or theses. Click this link [Dissertation and Theses Publishing](#) to review these rights.

A Type of Copyright Infringement: Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not giving proper credit to ideas or words that are not your own. Plagiarism is not only a violation of [Capella's Academic Honesty Policy](#), it is a violation of copyright and punishable by law. You can avoid copyright infringement or plagiarism by properly citing your work.

Capella University uses the American Psychology Association (APA) citation style. Need help with APA? Check out [APA citation style resources](#) at Capella's Online Writing Center. Also, many of the Library's databases will do much of the APA formatting for you.

As a Future Author

It is not necessary to formally file for copyright for intellectual property that you create, but it is recommended. Information on applying for copyright can be found at the [United States Copyright Office](#).

Helpful Web sites

- World Intellectual Property Organization (http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/what_is_wipo.html)
- United States Copyright Office (<http://www.copyright.gov/>)

Tutorials

- UCLA Library Copyright Tutorial (<http://www.library.ucla.edu/bruinsuccess/>)

References

World Intellectual Property Organization. (n.d). *What is Intellectual Property?* Retrieved November 29, 2007, from <http://www.wipo.int/about-ip/en/>

U.S. Copyright Office. (July, 2006). *What is Copyright?* Retrieved November 29, 2007, from <http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1.html#wci>

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