



Food for thought: Who, if anyone, holds the copyright to the work on this page?

Are you a creator?

If so, you're probably already a copyright owner. **Section 106 of the U.S. Copyright Act** gives you, as a copyright holder, certain **exclusive rights** to control how your work is used. According to the law, you have the right to choose:

- ❖ Who can make copies of your work
- ❖ Who can re-use portions of your work to create something new (aka “derivative” work)
- ❖ Who can distribute your work to the general public including selling, renting, or giving it away
- ❖ Who can *publicly* display—or perform—a version of your copyrighted work
- ❖ Who can digitally broadcast your work (such as airing it on a podcast) if it's a sound recording

Anyone who wants to use your work in one of the above ways must get your permission, meet your licensing requirements, or make sure that their intended use is *justified* by one of the **copyright exceptions** that are also contained in the U.S. Copyright Act.

These exceptions are explained in Sections 107 through 122. They are known as the “limitations on exclusive rights.”

To **fully understand your rights** as a copyright holder, as well as your rights as a user of copyrighted materials, you should familiarize yourself with the limitations sections too.

Some of them, such as the “fair use” exception in Section 107, may sound familiar but they are complicated. Don't assume you understand what is permitted without looking into it.

If you don't follow these regulations when using copyrighted work, you could be infringing someone's copyright. Copyright infringement is against the law, and you can be found liable.

It's important to know when your creations are protected by copyright law and when they aren't.

To learn more, check out: <http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap1.html>

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