

Assignment 5 Discussion - Copyright Issues

Identify what you consider to be the most critical copyright-concern issue. Discuss your rationale for selecting this concern as one of such high importance. Give an example of a violation of this copyright issue and describe how you might instruct students to be more aware of this issue.

Parents educate their children by example about core values and principles. They become role models for their children in which instruction is reinforced by their actions. Children's transgressions are handled appropriately and firmly through reason and love but they also discipline their children in proportion to the offense. Caring teachers should similarly educate students about copyright laws in their classroom. Teachers are held accountable to a higher standard in ethical matters, which makes them role models of appropriate behavior for their students. Modeling correct use of copyright materials is a powerful instructional strategy to inculcate students the importance of respecting owners' rights of their creative works. Every instance of copyright infringement should be a teachable moment, in which teachers discuss with students why their actions are inappropriate, but teachers also enforce disciplinary measures for students to realize the serious consequences of their actions.

Modeling appropriate use of copyright materials is often hindered by passionate and very dedicated teachers who make instructional decisions based more on good intentions than on common sense or reason. Their desire to make a difference in students' lives induces many teachers to take foolish risks using inappropriately copyright material in their classroom. When they are confronted about their actions, these teachers immediately justify their actions based on the fair use doctrine. Unfortunately, these teachers believe the fair use doctrine grant them free use of copyright material and are exempt from lawsuits. To make matters worst, there are school administrators who do not take proactive approach training teachers on copyrights issues and often take for granted that their teachers know about copyright laws.

Due to my current classroom practices using Blackboard (Bb), a critical copyright issue that I have been concerned is linking copyrighted material within the owner's web site instead of the home page. Becker recognized the potential for copyright infringement when my links take students to the body of author's work without any notification that they will be visiting a different site (as cited in Smaldino, Lowther, & Russell, 2008). This type of linking could cause the impression that such material is in my web site, which is a way of not giving credit to the owner. In my courses, I often link course materials in Bb to many Internet sites but these sites are displayed inside Bb. There have been instances when students have praised me for the quality of the course materials displayed by these links, thinking that I authored it. As a role model of appropriate use of copyrighted material, I need to change my approach of linking Internet sites in Bb.

Reference

Smaldino, S., Lowther, D.L., & Russell, J. (2008). *Instructional technology and media for learning* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.