Using Images in a Research Week Presentation

When using images in your Research Week (RW) presentation, you must consider both plagiarism and copyright. Plagiarism is using someone else's work or ideas without giving proper credit. It is an issue of ethics and academic integrity. Copyright infringement is the unauthorized copying of someone else's original creative work that has been "fixed in a tangible medium of expression" in any format (i.e., text, images, tables, graphs, testing instruments, audiovisual materials). It is a legal issue.

How can plagiarism be avoided?

It is considered plagiarism to use an image in your Research Week (RW) presentation without giving credit to the creator of the image, regardless of whether the image is protected by copyright. Giving proper credit requires an image caption that includes a citation and, if required, a citation in your project's reference section based on your required formatting style (i.e., MLA, APA, Turabian).

What are the implications for copyright?

If the image you want to use is protected by copyright, you will need permission to publish from the copyright owner since your RW presentation will be published in Scholars Crossing. You can avoid the need to seek permission by choosing an image that fits your need that is in the public domain or has a Creative Commons (CC) license.

How can you determine if an image is protected by copyright?

The image may state, "All Rights Reserved," include the word Copyright, or have the © symbol. Unless it is otherwise noted, you should assume the image is protected by copyright unless it has a Creative Commons License or the copyright date is before 1928, making it in the public domain.
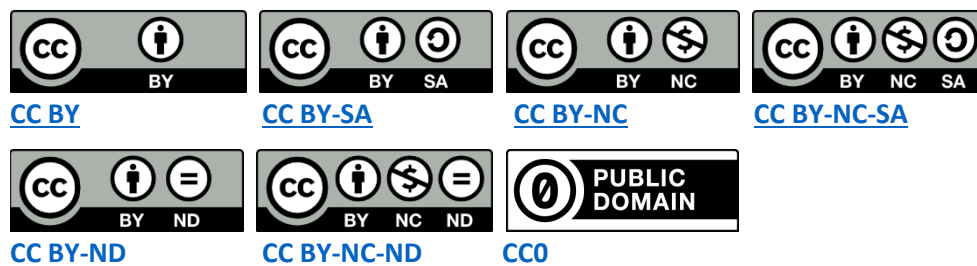
What is the public domain?

The public domain contains items that are not protected by copyright either because the copyright has expired or because the items were never protected. Materials in the public domain are free to use in any manner and do not require permission to use or publish. However, a caption is still required to avoid plagiarism. The following items are automatically in the public domain:

- Works of the U.S. government (*Works created by state and local governments may be protected; it depends on the laws in those areas. View this State Copyright Resource Center for state information*.)

- Procedures, facts and ideas, methods of operation, and concepts

- Works published before 1928

- Works placed in the public domain by the creator(s)

- Works that have chosen a Creative Commons public domain license

What is a Creative Commons license?

Creative Commons (CC) is a free system of licenses that an author/creator can choose to apply to their creative works so others know how they can legally use them. Works using a CC license will either include an icon or acronym for the type of license. You do not need to obtain permission to use materials with a CC license, but you must follow the types of use and attribution specified by the CC license. The following icons and acronyms that identify the various types of CC licenses were taken from the Creative Commons website:

CC BY **CC BY-SA** **CC BY-NC** **CC BY-NC-SA**

CC BY-ND **CC BY-NC-ND** **CC0**

Where can I find images with CC licenses and images in the public domain?

There are a number of websites that include images with a Creative Commons License and/or images in the public domain. You can learn more and explore websites with free images on the Copyright Research Guide. Remember that even when images can be used without permission, captions are still required.

How do I give credit for an image?

The method of giving credit for an image will vary depending on the source of the image and the citation format that is required for your discipline. When citing an image found through Google, Bing, or another search engine, click through the image until the image source is discovered and cite the source rather than the search engine.

At a minimum, the image should have:

- A figure # that is assigned in numerical order in which the image is shown in the presentation
- A title or description
- The name of the creator(s)

How do I cite graphs, charts, and tables?

You should include a caption for all graphs, charts, and tables, even those you create. If they are from research articles, websites, or other sources, you must include a caption and a citation based on the citation style you are using.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Please email scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu if you have questions about how to avoid plagiarism and copyright infringement in your RW presentation.