Creative Commons : Lesson Plan

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Use in conjunction with Creative Commons Slate Resource (bit.ly/iu-cc)

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, participants will have:

• discussed copyright with peers and how it relates to their work.
• developed awareness of Creative Commons Licensing.
• created a CC License.
• compared two CC Resources.
• be able to find CC Resources on the web.

Notes

This is a Slate tutorial based on a session I run within various courses here at the University. The session should last about 45 minutes.

Group your participants into small groups. 6 Max.

To create ‘mixed ability’ groups I run a quick move around exercise.

I describe one wall of the room as ‘Copyright Experts’. I describe the opposite wall as ‘Copyright Novices’. I state clearly that no one in the room is a novice or expert but is somewhere in-between. I then ask participants to form a single line, positioning themselves where they see their expertise. Make this fun! It is not a skills test. Knowing lots is no better than knowing nothing! People may be shy. Make it a positive and fun experience!

I then walk down the line giving a number to each participant; 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3 (the count will reflect the number of groups you want to create). I then ask all the ‘1’s, ‘2’s and ‘3’s to get together as a group. Each group will contain a mix of experience.

Plan

Display the address to the Creative Commons Slate


Invite participants to access on their smart devices / laptops. All resources for the session are accessible from this Slate. It is fine for participants to browse the resource as the session progresses.

Display The Slate

1. Introduce the session and the subjects that will be covered.
2. Ask each group to consider what 'copyright' means to them and when they can use other peoples creations in their work. Keep this high level and avoid falling into grey area discussion!

3. Refer participants to the resource links on the Slate. Participants can access a Wikipedia definition of Copyright. Ten Copyright Myths by the UK Copyright Service and an excellent documentary challenging modern interpretations in relation to copyright law and the need for a ‘healthy public domain’.

These resources are for access outside of the session.

4. Show CC Kiwi. This is an excellent video introducing Creative Commons and how we can safely and legally use each others work.

5. Ask Participants to create a CC licence. You can access the interactive Creative Commons ‘choose a license’ page from The Slate. I have found turning things around and asking participants to create a license for something they have created a powerful way of bringing insight into CC.

Make sure you click the link to the license created and show the legal what you can do and what you need to credit elements of the document. Explain this legal document protects both creator and publisher and cannot be revoked once issued.

6. Explore Incompetech (accessible from the slate) This is an excellent music and soundtrack CC resource Show each 'downloadable' has the correct text accreditation alongside. Being legal is as simple as a copy and paste.

Note. Kevin makes money from the site. His business model uses CC to advertise his work. For commercial, use where CC accreditation would be inappropriate, Kevin will sell you a license.

7. Explore Flickr. Show the CC filter and the 'share' button. This is great if you want to embed a resource in a website or other web enabled creation but also point out there is no copy and paste text. This makes using images for creations that don’t support clickable links difficult.

Reinforce we still need to provide appropriate accreditation and we may need to tinker around to create something legal.

I suggest that just downloading from a CC resource is not enough and we have a responsibility to uphold our side of the licence as requested by the creator. I also suggest some CC sites (like Flickr) could help us do this.

Compare Flickr to the Incompetech site in relation to creating correct CC attribution. Discuss which is better.

8. Finally I point students at the Creative Commons Search and suggest Googling 'Creative Commons Resources' as new resources are appearing all the time.

I also invite participants to note the address of The Slate and review the resources it contains in their own time or when needed.

Enjoy! Please share any experiences / changes you make with this resource.

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