



## Answers

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1. False. Copyright notices are not required on works created after 1989. Unless you specifically know otherwise, you should assume that all works are copyrighted whether they have a copyright notice or not.
2. True. Formal registration is not required for a copyright to be valid, though registration does bring additional safeguards and is a good idea for "valuable" works.
3. False. A copyright lasts for a fixed period of time. While the length of a work's copyright will depend, among other things, on when the work was created and/or published, all copyrights eventually expire. Once a copyright lapses or expires, the work falls into the public domain and can be used without permission of the owner. Of course, you should still give proper credit to the author.
4. False. Copyright ownership in the student media setting is a complicated issue. Generally, however, unless student journalists are compensated and treated as regular school employees while working for student media, current law suggests that students — not the school — will retain ownership in the works they create. Because of the uncertainties of copyright ownership, student media organizations do themselves a favor by establishing formal copyright ownership agreements prior to publication.
5. False. Plagiarism is not a legal term. It is a term for an academic crime, usually defined by professional or academic bodies. Simply stated, a plagiarist is a person who poses as the creator of words, ideas or methods that are not his own. By contrast, a person infringes on another's copyright when he makes unauthorized use of material that is protected by copyright.
6. False. Simply giving the copyright owner credit for his or her work is not enough to avoid copyright infringement. Explicit permission is required.

7. False. While it would certainly make life easier, there are, unfortunately, no numerical word or time limits in the copyright law. Whether a use is legal (such as in the case of a fair use) or illegal must be determined on a case-by-case basis.

8. False. Fair Use is a very important exception to the general rule that material protected by copyright cannot be used without consent. The Fair Use Doctrine is, in effect, a compromise and authorizes the use of limited amounts of copyright-protected works for purposes like news reporting and education so long as the use does not destroy the commercial value of the work.

9. True. Age is no barrier to a successful copyright infringement suit.

10. True. Copyright law also recognizes a distinction between "expression" and "ideas." Only creative expression, and not mere ideas or facts, qualifies for copyright protection. You are free to use facts reported by other news sources in articles or other works that you create.

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