

# **FAIR USE**

**NOUN.** A legal doctrine that permits unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Act provides the framework for determining a fair use through consideration of four factors:

- Purpose and character of the use
- Nature of the copyrighted work
- Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole
- Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work

SOURCE: U.S. Copyright Office website ([www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov)); accessed 9/26/17 and 3/14

## **TYPICAL FAIR USE CIRCUMSTANCES (LEGALLY SPEAKING)**

- Criticism and commentary
- News reporting
- Research and scholarship
- Nonprofit educational uses
- Parody

## **DID YOU KNOW...?**

1. There is no predetermined amount of content (words, lines, pages, images, or copies) from any copyright-protected work that may be used without permission.
2. The fair use doctrine also applies to content from unpublished works.