

# CREATING A CLASS SCRAPBOOK



## OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to the meaning and importance of copyright
- To encourage students to think about what it means to “copy right”

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

- A copy of the reproducible activity sheet for each student
- Art supplies

## TIME REQUIRED

Three class periods—one to explain the project and to introduce the topic of copyright, one for creating the scrapbook pages, and one for sharing pages and assembling the finished project. Students will need to bring most items for their pages from home. Additional time might be allocated on an occasional basis for students to update their pages or for other students to add things to their friends’ pages.

## INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDELINES

Begin by talking to students about what copyright is and why it is important. Explain why it is necessary to respect the work of others, and for others to respect their work. Have students find the copyright symbol on different items in the classroom. Explain that, even if there is not a copyright symbol, most creative works—books, stories, pictures and art, music, etc.—are protected by copyright. That means they cannot be copied, in whole or in part, without the copyright holder’s permission. Then explain that copyright law does allow students to use **portions** of copyrighted material in their schoolwork. For example, they may quote part of a story or download a copy of a photo for a book report. Even though this is permitted, however, stress to students that they should always cite the source of the material they use.

Explain to students that they are going to create a class scrapbook with a separate page for each student modeled on a social network (e.g., Facebook) page. Each student’s page will include pictures, words, and special items to show who that student is, including information about the student’s family, pets, favorite activities, etc. If you wish, you also can have students include space for their friends to add to their pages. You may also wish to use this activity as a prep for creating individual student web pages or an in-class social network if these are options at your school.

Next, ask students to name some of the things they might include on their page—pictures of themselves and their families; pictures of favorite singers, favorite places, favorite foods, etc. Then talk about which items might be protected by copyright—a photo of a singer from a magazine or CD cover, for example—and remind students that they must always cite the source of the material they copy.

Give each student a copy of the worksheet. Tell them they can use it to plan what kinds of things they will include on their page, how their page will look, the colors they will use to write their name and to illustrate and label the items they include, etc.



Encourage students to talk with their parents about what should be on their pages and to help them decide on photos, mementos, etc. When students have completed their pages, finish by having them fill in the copyright notice on their page.

At the end of the year, disassemble the scrapbook and give each student his or her page to take home.