Do I Need Permission for That?

Using content “found” on the web, or using text, songs, or images that you have access to personally may constitute copyright infringement.

Infringement may result in legal and financial liability!

Is the material:
- In the Public Domain?
  - Yes
    - For more information on Public Domain works, see copyright.cornell.edu/publicdomain
  - No
    - Is the material licensed for reuse?
      - Yes
        - You do not need permission to reuse this work!
      - No
        - Is the copyright holder identifiable?
          - Yes
            - You may use the work within the bounds of the license!
          - No
            - Obtain permission for your uses.
              - Be sure that you get permission in all territories worldwide.
              - These rights may be held by multiple parties, so check to make sure you’re being granted the rights you need!
              - Contact us for tips and assistance tracking down rightsholders.
        - No
          - Still need help? Want to double check?
            - copyright@cornell.edu
            - copyright.cornell.edu

- A Fact?
  - A small quote that is not the heart of the work? (Note: Poetry and Song Lyrics almost always require permission).

- The copyright holder may have authorized certain uses without permission. Check your source for details.
  - If the work is licensed under a Creative Commons license, reuse must follow the license restrictions.

- The publisher is often the copyright holder. Even if they are not, they are the best point of contact for seeking permissions from the author.
  - To reuse AV materials, you may need to get permission from multiple parties. Be sure to identify all potential rights holders as you proceed.

If you seek privileged legal advice, contact the Cornell University Office of University Counsel.