

# CSC108H Winter 2024 Worksheet 31 : Tiny Language Model Wrap-up

## Who Owns This? The Ethics of Copyright Embedded Ethics Education Initiative 2023 – 2024

In our Tiny Language Model (TLM) exercise, we wrote a simple song lyric generator, and used it to create some nonsense Taylor Swift lyrics. But who should own the lyrics we have created? Are we stealing from Taylor Swift if we were to sell these lyrics to someone else?

1. One kind of ethical argument is an argument by analogy. When we aren't sure whether action A is ethically right or wrong, we can compare it to another action B. If action A and action B are similar enough, then if action B is OK, action A is OK too. If action B is not OK, action A is probably not OK either.

Complete the following table.

Way of making up a song	Rank by similarity to our TLM (1 = most, 4 = least)	Do you think someone should be able to sell this song as their own?
Taking a Taylor Swift song and replacing every word or phrase with a synonym	4	No
Rearranging the lines of an existing Taylor Swift song	2	No
Making a new song but using only the words found in a Taylor Swift song	1	Yes
Including a few lines of Taylor Swift lyrics in a longer original song	3	Yes

2. For the songwriting method in the table above that you ranked as most similar to our TLM, identify what you think is the most important similarity and difference between it and our TLM.

Similarity:

Difference:

3. Based on your answers to the questions above, do you think that people should be allowed to use our TLM to generate song lyrics and sell them for profit?

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Another kind of ethical argument is thinking about how your actions *impact* people in a situation (**stakeholders**).

4. Suppose that someone made and sold music using lyrics using our TLM on Taylor Swift's lyrics.

How would each of the stakeholders be affected?

Stakeholder	Positive Effects	Negative Effects
General consumers of music		
Taylor Swift		
Other musical artists		

5. Which group(s) of stakeholders is/are largest in number?

6. For which group(s) is/are the impacts the biggest?

7. Based *only* on impacts to stakeholders, do you think that people should be allowed to use TLMs and LLMs (e.g. ChatGPT) to generate lyrics from Taylor Swift's music and sell them for profit? Do you think this analysis of impacts leaves out any ethically important factor?