

Discussion 2.2 was really useful for me because copyright law is not something I have dealt with too much. I had heard about the ISP debacle that was mentioned in Scott's posts but hadn't really applied it to education. It makes me wonder whether the ISPs take Fair Use into account when notifying people that they may be violating copyright law. It will be very interesting to see how this plays out. I thought one of the most interesting thoughts that came up was the debate between allowing teachers to have easy access to the materials they need and want, and respecting copyright. I don't think that teachers should just be able to take anything and claim educational use and be able to use it. I think that is far too easy to abuse, and far too broad of a guideline to enforce. Also, I think that the creators of any content should be able to control its use and know when it is being used. By allowing teachers to just use anything any time, or some special license for educational use, it would eliminate any control over one's own content and I don't think that is a good idea. If teachers want to collaborate more and have more open content than they should each be posting their lessons with a Creative Commons type license so that other teachers don't have to re-invent the wheel when planning lessons.

It's not a matter of anyone owning knowledge, because after all fully factual documents and items are not governed by copyright law. So it's a matter of protecting one's individual efforts and creativity. I think all teachers would agree that no other teacher should be able to claim any kind of credit for another teacher's efforts.

The discussion that we had was a great reminder of the need to pay attention to copyright laws and their consequences. As major for-profit technology companies get involved in the education space, it will be ever more important to remain vigilant about copyright law. They will provide products and services that will tempt educators to cheat just a little and sidestep copyright law, but it will be important as one classmate said to set a good example for the students and follow the law.