It is important that a school administrator remember several things when it comes to copyright. Of those, the most important are: Having a clear policy in place (and well-advertised) for copyright issues in the school, vigilant upholding of the policy, and a framework for teaching students how and why to adhere to copyright policies. It is important that a school have a policy in place that both makes sense and is known and understood by the students and teachers. Students should be able to reference their school's particular copyright policy. Similarly, teachers should be able to reference the copyright policy for their school when planning projects or developing lessons. It is important that an administrator uphold the policy that it sets. There must be consistent enforcement of the policy in order for it to have any validity or weight. Lastly, for administrators, they must ensure that there is curriculum in place in all areas that teaches students about copyright. This needs to be true in all areas because copyright law does not just apply to English papers, or History essays. It can apply to technology projects, artwork, or even science lab reports. All teachers should talk about copyright law and policy like they talk about plagiarism because they really do go hand in hand.

For teachers, it is important to fairly educate students about copyright policies in place at the school, teach students about Fair Use and when it can and can't be used, and teach students that citing sources does not make copyright violation acceptable. Like administrators, teachers should teach students why copyright is important and why it's not ok to steal someone's intellectual property. In addition, when teaching students about copyright they should be told when they *can* use copyrighted materials such as Fair Use. For example, students should understand that they can use clips of video for a project, but probably not an entire full-length video. Lastly, if students *are* going to use copyrighted material they should know how to get permission, or how to know if it is permissible to use it. Lastly, it's important that teachers teach students the difference between plagiarism and copyright violations. Just because something is cited doesn't mean it is ok to use. It may not be considered plagiarism, but it may still be unlawful. This is a very common misconception, and we spend so much time telling students to cite their sources that some think that if they do, they will always be covered.

As we learned in Chapter 4, search engines put the entire web at our fingertips. This makes education about copyright law that much more important. If students can use a search engine to find text, audio, photos, video, and more about any particular topic it is important that they be taught when and how it is appropriate to use them. The No FAT Guide is a really useful article about Fair Use. Fair Use is one of those purposely vague, highly interpretable, and divisive concepts that can be debated for a long time. Having faced situations in Hopkinton as a Technology Integration Specialist where Fair Use was debated, I found the article pretty helpful. I really liked the quiz, even though I scored really poorly, because it provided some generic but really common situations that were very tricky to figure out. If anything, it was a great way to learn how intricate Fair Use can be. In particular the question about the video yearbook was interesting since I did the exact same thing in High School and had no idea it was a copyright violation. No one, from the principal to the Tech Director (who ironically was later my boss in Hopkinton) to our teacher told us that we were violating copyright law by selling the DVDs. The other question I thought was interesting was the one about the school play. I knew it was wrong, but in similar situations I always thought that by reproducing something myself, and not using a direct copy would make it ok. I guess this is where the intent piece comes in. Having no intent of defying copyright law doesn't make it ok. It just makes you less liable if you can actually show you had no real intent of breaking the law.

It may be a generational thing, but I love the collaborative nature of Web 2.0. I love that anyone can go into Wikipedia and change any article. I think that by nature the majority of our society strives to be good people. And so I think on a site like Wikipedia, the majority of people strive to create a library of accurate information. I think the good generally outweighs the bad in situations like this. I think the more we move towards open content the better. I think Creative Commons has struck a pretty good balance between protecting content, and allowing for flexibility in its distribution. Creative Commons doesn't claim to illegitimize copyright law, but rather provides a middle ground with clear guidelines of how to share the information appropriately.

Copyright, like any law, will always be something people try to get around or avoid. And like most things, technology makes it easier to do. Technology makes it easier to reproduce, easier to share, and easier to find content. We see this with books now because they can be so easy to scan, or if you have a PDF, to just print out copies to hand out freely. We've seen it with movies and images for years. I'm sure that there are plenty of teachers who use articles specifically to teach students about copyright but don't seek permission for it because it's just so easy to print out or post. It's an interesting situation because copyright law was purposely written vaguely, but unfortunately that has led to very vague and personally beneficial interpretations. Fair Use is often over-applied, or at the very least very liberally applied. In Brad Templeton's list of myths about copyright law I think the first is the one that shocked me the most learning about copyright law. It states: "If it doesn't have a copyright notice, it's not copyrighted". I was actually surprised to learn this. I always assumed that something was fair game if it didn't have a © symbol on it. I'm glad I learned this because now I can avoid any potential confusion or issues down the road.