

Hill -Robert-20050302043002

To: Julie L. Sigall  
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

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From: Robert Hill

Comment:

I'm an animation student at The Art Institute of California - Orange County. My school's policy requires that I prove that all work use either all original material, public domain material, or get written permission from the copyright owner.

The "fair use" of any material, even for strictly educational purposes, is forbidden because the school is afraid of a lawsuit. As you can imagine, this makes the use of sound samples for animations, or even the derivative use of images nearly impossible since there is almost never a way to discover the copyright status of the file, let alone running down its owner.

I spent countless hours creating a student animation in sync with music only to have it rejected because there was no way to prove the song was public domain. To be fair even I did not know. I just assumed since I was just a student it was okay, and there was no way for me to find out.

Please, any new laws must make it clear who can use what and for what. By the time the courts sort it out I will have graduated.