SECTION 3
Copyright

When something is created – a writing, photograph, art or piece of music – it is automatically protected by copyright. Many people do not understand copyright laws, which can be complicated. A good assumption is that if you didn't create something yourself, it has copyright protection. That means the photo taken from a website that you put into your presentation slides was copyrighted. Using it without permission is not acceptable. It also means that latest pop song is off-limits for your video, because it is copyrighted.

You may think copyrights will be limiting, which is true to some extent; however, some people do want their work (music, art, photos, and writing) to be used collaboratively and shared. There are several sources of available creative works. One source is Creative Commons. Where creators of material can specify how their work can be used. Many simply ask for attribution, which can be done with captions on photos/art or in credits on videos.

Following are a few resources to consider. No endorsement of these resources is intended. Be sure to read policies carefully. Attribute images as required by photographers who have shared their photos via sharing websites. Even with purchased stock photos, there may be limitations on use.

With so much content posted publicly on the internet in easy-to-search formats, there are creators who purposefully seek out copyright infringement to sue for monetary claims. Be careful and be sure to use materials with permission only and with correct attributions.

For Music and Sound

Consider recording music through various available apps such as Audacity, Adobe Audition and Twisted Wave. Incompetech has royalty free music. Be sure to follow rules listed. Free Soundtrack Music is a royalty-free music site that has both free and for-purchase music. Melody Loops offers background music for a small fee. Contact a composer/musician you know and ask for permission to use his or her music. Be sure to have written permission on file.

For Photos and Art

Again, Creative Commons searches may produce free photos and art to use with proper attribution. If clipart is built into a software program, it is generally considered free to use; however, if the software sends you to web-based search engines, you have to find the creator of the content and ask permission to use. Assume anything posted on the web is copyrighted. There are photo sharing websites, such as Flickr that intend for photos to be used, but you must check the attribution requirements. Check out Free Range Stock and Pixabay for photos and art. You can create your own photos to use, but be sure you have permission from anyone appearing in the photo to use it as you intend. Another resource for editing photos is Canva.

Research Citation

Remember to cite the source of information gathered from research either verbally, throughout a presentation, or in writing at the conclusion of a presentation, on a poster or slide. Senior members may want to use a standard citation system like APA (American Psychological Association) or MLA (Modern Language Association).