

Mary: Hey Jim. I just finished editing the Admissions website. What do you think?

Jim: Looks great Mary. The headings are aligned correctly, and the paragraphs are spaced... wait is that the same picture from the CNN website I just saw today?

Mary: Yes that is. It's a picture of Hillary Clinton giving a speech at Smith College. I borrowed it from CNN.com. Don't you think it fits well on our site?

Jim: It does, but...

Mary: But what?

Jim: There's just one problem. We don't exactly own that picture and we could get into some serious trouble for using it on here.

Mary: Phsssh, like anybody cares.

Jim: Oh, but they do. According to Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution, Congress is allowed to protect authors' works using copyright law. This includes text, music, videos, and images. In other words, it's unlawful to infringe on the rights of the copyright owners, including CNN. That could mean that the owner of the text, music, video, or image can sue for damages set forth in the copyright statute. And that can cost the college upwards of 750-30,000 dollars per copy. Remember the more willful the infringement, the more damages the author can sue for. Also, it looks bad for the college.

Mary: Oh wow, I didn't realize that.

Jim: Plus, it's the right thing to do. We want others to respect our works, so we need to respect theirs. Also, respecting copyright ensures the continued availability and value of the protected work.

Mary: Oh my, I'm sorry about that Jim. I'll take it off right away.

Jim: No problem Mary. Just next time be sure to use pre-approved images from the University or ask for permission from the owner of the image.

Mary: Will do boss!

Jim: Thanks, Mary! Now about those reports...