

# Copyright Basics for Film

## PPR v. Home Viewing Licenses

### Definitions

To perform a work means ... in the case of a motion picture or other audiovisual work, to show its images in any sequence or to make the sounds accompanying it audible.

Motion pictures are audiovisual works consisting of a series of related images which, when shown in succession, impart an impression of motion, together with accompanying sounds, if any.

A Public Performance License (or PPR) permits the screening of a motion picture for face-to-face teaching. This license also permits the screening of a copyrighted film “at a place open to the public...”

A Home Video License (or Home Use) permits a copyrighted film to be screened in full within a family group and an associated circle of friends within reason.

*Title 17, USC, Copyrights, Section 101, Definitions*

Can I:	License Type	
	PPR	Home
Screen a film in class for face-to-face instruction (per Limitations on Exclusive Rights: Exemption of certain performances and displays, section 110)		
Screen the film to a public gathering where no entrance fee is charged (per section 110)		
Charge admission fees to a film screening in a public space		
Take still images from the film		
Digitize short clips for face-to-face instruction in a classroom setting since I'm a faculty member whose primary academic area is in film or communication studies (per Digital Millennium Act, section 1201)		
Digitize any portion of a film since I'm a student (per section 1201)		
Transmit any portion of the film via the internet over a secured or unsecured network (i.e. digitize DVDs and stream for distance education or incorporate into Blackboard)		
Display the film in distance education courses		
Screen the film in a family circle or small group of friends (per Exclusive rights in copyrighted works, section 106)		

# Additional Resources

## Relevant sections of the United States Copyright Law:

- Section 101, Definitions
- Section 106, Exclusive rights in copyrighted works
- Section 110, Limitations on exclusive rights: Exemption of certain performances and displays
- Section 1201, Digital Millennium Act

## Useful Copyright Resources for Film

Copyright Info via Howard-Tilton Memorial Library

<http://library.tulane.edu/services/publishing/copyright-info>

ALA Office of Information Technology Policy – Exceptions for Instructors U.S. Copyright Law  
[evaluator]

<http://librarycopyright.net/etool/>

Columbia Copyright Advisory Office

<http://copyright.columbia.edu/copyright/>

United States Copyright Office

<http://www.copyright.gov/>

Haverford College Audio Visual Services

<http://iits.haverford.edu/services/audio-visual/copyright-information/>

Rulemaking on Exemptions from Prohibition on Circumvention of Technological Measures that Control Access to Copyrighted Works.

<http://www.copyright.gov/1201/2006/>

Motion Picture Association of America

<http://www.mpa.org/>