FAIR USE 101

The four factors determining fair use and indicators that weigh each factor in favor of fair use:

- **The purpose and character** of the use: transformative, non-profit, educational
- **The nature** of the copyrighted work: published, factual
- **The portion** of the work used: not essential, relatively small
- **The effect** of the use upon the potential market: won’t prevent the owner from making $$

Here’s what the law (**Title 17 of the United States Code**) says:

“§ 107: Limitations on exclusive rights: Fair use

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 106 and 106A, the fair use of a copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies or phonorecords or by any other means specified by that section, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. In determining whether the use made of a work in any particular case is a fair use the factors to be considered shall include —

1. the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for non-profit educational purposes;
2. the nature of the copyrighted work;
3. the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
4. the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

The fact that a work is unpublished shall not itself bar a finding of fair use if such finding is made upon consideration of all the above factors.”

http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap1.html#107

Two great resources:

Copyright and Fair Use  
http://fairuse.stanford.edu/

ALA Copyright Advisory Network  
http://www.librarycopyright.net/

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“Fair Use 101” is presented by members of the OITP Copyright Advisory Committee

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