



Media in the Classroom (updated 4/16/2024)

This policy covers the display of physical and streaming media content in the classroom setting, as well as basic copyright protections, Fair Use, and the TEACH Act.

COMMERCIAL STREAMING and the CLASSROOM

Most commercial streaming services have clauses in their Terms of Use, Subscriber Agreement, or Terms of Service that prohibit the broadcasting of their content in any other setting than private and personal. Streaming content from these services either in a physical classroom or in an online classroom violates these agreements. If you are considering using content from a streaming service, consult their terms of use before showing content in the classroom. Even if there is a classroom exception in copyright law, the license (and your agreement to it) will prevail over the law.

Commercial Streaming Exception: Netflix Documentaries in a Classroom

Netflix allows some of its documentaries to be shown in a face-to-face educational setting, however you must check to see if the content has a "Grant of Permission for Educational Screenings" or if they are included on Netflix's YouTube playlist of educational documentaries.

- [Educational Screenings of Documentaries | Netflix Help Center](#)
- [Educational Documentaries | Netflix's YouTube Playlist](#)

UW Tacoma Library Resources – Streaming Media Collections A-Z

[Browse the Collections](#) | [Request Media for Classroom or Streaming](#)

COPYRIGHT BASICS

The Copyright Act, Section 110(1) – face-to-face teaching exemption – allows for the performance or display of video or film in a classroom where instruction takes place with enrolled students who are physically present, and the film is related to the curricular goals of the course.

[SECTION 110 | Copyright Law of the United States](#)

TEACH ACT

The TEACH Act amendment to the Copyright Act (Section 110(2)) permits the performance of a reasonable and limited portion of films streamed or embedded in an online classroom.

[UW Copyright Resource – TEACH Act](#)

FAIR USE

Fair Use is a limitation on the rights of the copyright holder that allows others to use portions of a copyrighted work or the whole work without permission from the holder (Section 107)

It is determined by a balanced application of four factors. [See UW Libraries' Fair Use Checklist](#)

[Learn more about copyright, popular streaming platform user guides, and UW resources.](#)