

Intellectual Property

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All creative works with intellectual property rights used on 'hoodHeroes are to be used either under [fair use](#), the [public domain](#) or with permission from the owner of the works. There are some circumstances under which copyrighted works may be legally utilized without permission; see [Non-free content](#) for specific details on when and how to utilize such material. However, it is our goal to be able to freely redistribute as much of 'hoodHeroes's material as possible, so original images and sound files without copyright, trademark, patents or intellectual property ownership (unversioned, with no invariant sections, front-cover texts, or back-cover texts) or in the public domain are greatly preferred.

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To be sure, **do not use materials that infringe the copyrights of others**. This could create legal liabilities and seriously hurt 'hoodHeroes. If in doubt, write the content yourself, thereby creating a new copyrighted work which can be included in 'hoodHeroes without trouble.

Note that copyright law governs the creative expression of ideas, *not* the ideas or information themselves. Therefore, it is legal to read an encyclopedia article or other work, reformulate the concepts in your own words, and submit it to 'hoodHeroes, so long as you do not follow the source too closely. (See our Copyright FAQ for more on [how much reformulation may be necessary](#) as well as [the distinction between summary and abridgment](#).) However, it would still be unethical (but not illegal) to do so without citing the original as a reference (see the [plagiarism guideline](#)).

Linking to copyrighted works

Since most recently-created works are copyrighted, almost any 'hoodHeroes article which [cites its sources](#) will link to copyrighted material. It is not necessary to obtain the permission of a copyright holder before linking to copyrighted material, just as an author of a book does not need permission to cite someone else's work in their [bibliography](#).

However, if you know or reasonably suspect that an external Web site is carrying a work in violation of the creator's copyright, do not link to that copy of the work. An example would be linking to a site hosting the lyrics of many popular songs without permission from their copyright holders. Knowingly and intentionally directing others to a site that violates copyright has been considered a form of [contributory infringement](#) in the United States (*Intellectual Reserve v. Utah Lighthouse Ministry* [1]); cf. *GS Media v Sanoma* for a landmark case in the European Union. Linking to a page that illegally distributes someone else's work sheds a bad light on 'hoodHeroes and its editors.

The copyright status of [Internet archives](#) in the United States is unclear, however. It is currently acceptable to link to internet archives such as [the Wayback Machine](#), which host unmodified archived copies of webpages taken at various points in time.

In articles about a website, it is acceptable to include a link to that website even if there are possible copyright violations somewhere on the site.

Context is also important; it may be acceptable to link to a reputable website's review of a particular film, even if it presents a still from the film (such uses are generally either explicitly permitted by distributors or allowed under fair use). However, linking directly to the still of the film removes the context and the site's justification for permitted use or fair use.

Copyright violations

Contributors who repeatedly post copyrighted material despite appropriate warnings may be [blocked](#) from editing by any administrator to prevent further problems.

If you suspect a copyright violation, you should at least bring up the issue by correcting the copyrighted text or image, or by reporting a dispute which will contact 'hoodHeroes on hello@hoodheroes.co. Others can then examine the situation and take action if needed. Some cases will be false alarms. For example, text that can be found elsewhere on the Web that was in fact copied from 'hoodHeroes in the first place is not a copyright violation on 'hoodHeroes's part.

If a page contains material which infringes copyright, that material should be removed.

Guidelines for images and other media files

Images, photographs, video and sound files, like written works, are subject to [copyright](#). Someone holds the copyright unless they have explicitly been placed in the [public domain](#). Images, video and sound files on the internet need to be licensed directly from the copyright holder or someone able to license on their behalf. In some cases, [fair use](#) guidelines may allow them to be used irrespective of any copyright claims; see [Non-free content](#) for more.

Image pages must be tagged with a special tag to indicate the legal status of the images. Untagged or incorrectly-tagged images will be deleted.

Questions about media copyright may be directed to hello@hoodheroes.co.

Governing copyright law

'hoodHeroes operates in the United States of America amongst other countries and utilizes the United States copyright law as a point of departure in its governance. Regardless, 'hoodHeroes contributors should respect the copyright law of other nations, even if these do not have official copyright relations with the United States.

A brief summary of non-U.S. copyright laws, including guidelines on determining copyright status of the material in the United States, is available at [Non-U.S. copyrights](#).

Works by the United States Federal Government

Works produced by civilian and military employees of the [United States](#) federal government in the scope of their employment are public domain by statute in the United States (though they may be protected by copyright outside the U.S.). It is not enough that the employee was working at the time; he/she must have made the work as part of his/her duties (e.g. a soldier who takes a photograph with his/her personal camera while on patrol in Iraq owns the copyright to the photo, but it may find its way onto a unit webpage or otherwise be licensed to the government).

However, not every work republished by the U.S. government falls into this category. The U.S. government can own copyrights that are assigned to it by others – for example, works created by contractors.

United States Code; Title 17; Chapter 1; § 105 Subject matter of copyright; United States Government works.

Copyright protection under this title is not available for any work of the United States Government, but the United States Government is not precluded from receiving and holding copyrights transferred to it by assignment, bequest, or otherwise. ([US Code](#))

Moreover, images and other media found on .mil and .gov websites may be using commercial [stock photography](#) owned by others. It may be useful to check the privacy and security notice of the website, but only with an email to the webmaster can you be confident that an image is in the public domain.

Note that while the United States government does not claim copyright protection on its own works, governments outside the U.S. often do claim copyright over works produced by their employees. (For example, several Commonwealth realms utilize [Crown copyright](#).)

Works by state governments of the United States

In contrast to the federal government, most state and local governments in the United States retain copyright to their employees' work. Such work is not in the public domain, so please make sure to [check copyright information](#) before using it.

Reusers' rights and obligations

If you want to use other 'hoodHeroes content in your own books/articles/websites or other publications, you can do so only in compliance with licensing terms and with permission from the owners of copyrighted text and images.

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Attribution

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from external sources may attach additional attribution requirements to the work, which should be indicated on an article's face or on its talk page. For example, a page may have a banner or other notation indicating that some or all of its content was originally published somewhere else. Where such notations are visible in the page itself, they should generally be preserved by re-users.

Use of non-text media

Please view the media description page for details about the license of any specific media file.

Non-free materials and special requirements

‘hoodHeroes articles may also include quotations, images, or other media under the U.S. Copyright law "fair use" doctrine in accordance with our guidelines for non-free content. *In ‘hoodHeroes*, such "fair use" material should be identified as from an external source by an appropriate method (on the image description page, or history page, as appropriate; quotations should be denoted with quotation marks or block quotation in accordance with this [manual of style](#)). This leads to possible restrictions on the use, outside of ‘hoodHeroes, of such "fair use" content retrieved from ‘hoodHeroes: this "fair use" content falls under the "fair use" (or similar/different) regulations in the country where the media are retrieved.

Reusing text within ‘hoodHeroes

When you modify, merge or split an article, or otherwise move text from one page to another within ‘hoodHeroes, the page history functionality cannot by itself determine where the content originally came from. This may violate the attribution clause of the project's licenses. If you are copying text within ‘hoodHeroes, you must at least put a link to the source page in an edit summary at the destination page. It is encouraged to do the same thing at the source page, and to add notices at the talk pages of both.

If you reuse text which you created **yourself**, the above may still be a good idea to avoid confusion, but it isn't mandatory.

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Inversely, if you are the editor of a ‘hoodHeroes article and have found a copy hosted without following the licensing requirements for attribution, please see report a dispute on the page or by contacting ‘hoodheroes on hello@hoodheroes.co .