

# MODULE 2

## 2.3 - CRITICAL THINKING AND COPYRIGHT

Once you have found your material, you need to know if and how you can use this material in class. Not all material you find on the internet is free to use and not all information you find online is reliable. It is therefore important that you use critical thinking to evaluate and select your sources. Since anyone can upload content on the internet some of it can contain distorted information or can be of low quality. Ensure that the content you find comes from a reliable source and it is objective, trustworthy and credible.

In order to evaluate your source the first thing you have to do is assess the accuracy of the content by checking if it's correctly written and that the information it provides is backed up by other sources. For example, let's say you're searching to see if classical music makes children more intelligent. For sure you will find a lot of information online on this very topic but in my case we will choose the article written by the guardian because it is a renowned and reputable news agency and this makes it more reliable than most.

Secondly you must assess the expertise of the author by checking their background and education. In this case "Fiona Maddox". By clicking on the writer's name we see that she is a classical music critic and has also written other articles and books on similar subjects.

Another key element in evaluating your sources is to assess the purpose of the author by asking yourself if their goal is to give information only, or if they have other motives like to sell or to persuade or to promote themselves because this might mean that the content is biased towards other purposes.

And lastly check the date of the publication. This is because a more recent source might be more accurate and reflect most recent findings.

A very important thing to keep in mind is that all of the original content that you find online, may it be articles, pictures, music artwork and so on, are copyright protected by default. What this means is that the original author of the content is the moral owner of that content and he or she is the only one that has the right to share, use, and reuse it. Therefore you are not allowed to download and redistribute this content online or offline without the author's permission.

In practice this means that if you are quoting directly from the source then you're obliged to put the content in quotes and cite the source of that content. If for example you have to cite or quote a book you have to list the author's name and surname, the year the book was published, the title of the book, the location, and the publisher. If you're paraphrasing someone else's content you don't have to put it in quotes but you still need to cite the source. When it comes to images you can only use pictures with free usage rights. For example, images from pixabay or unsplash.com are copyright free.

An exception to the copyright rule is materials protected under the creative commons license. Let's say for example you're searching for images on Flickr. Start by adding the keyword to your image search. You can click on the drop down menu behind any license and select all creative commons. This will give you all the images that you're allowed to use if you provide a backlink to the original picture. What this means is that the author has explicitly given some, or all of their rights to ownership of that content. The creative commons license can be reported at the bottom of a website page, in the sidebar, or in the about or contacts page. Once you find the logo you should click on it and read the related document to find out exactly which rights the author has given. Does this mean that you cannot use copyright content in face-to-face teaching? No! You are indeed allowed to use copyrighted content in a classroom just remember that you cannot distribute it and always cite your sources.