Fair Use in NPS Theses

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When including an image or other potentially copyright-protected content in a thesis without requesting reuse permission from the copyright owner, the student must:

1. verify the content is not copyrighted (or is in the public domain) or meets fair use requirements, and
2. cite the content to the source from which it was obtained.

The fair use doctrine allows many uses of copyrighted works for the purposes of teaching and research. The Visual Resources Association (2011) issued the following guidance to help students determine if content in their theses might meet fair use requirements.

Graduate students (and libraries, or publishers of online repositories of theses and dissertations) may be best positioned to assert fair use if:

- Significant commentary, or other original content, accompanies images included in the thesis or dissertation (as is almost uniformly the case).
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