



Film Series Guidelines

This is a non-lawyer read on fair use exceptions to US Copyright laws governing the rights of filmmakers to obtain royalties on the basis of copyright for the performance of films or other audio-visual media in nonprofit educational institutions. The legal reference is: US Code, Title 17, Chapter 1, § 110 section (2)¹. These are to be referenced AS GUIDELINES, not as defensible policy.

If you are a student group intending to put together a film showing event or series of film showings, we do not think you need to obtain an 'institutional copy' of the film(s) or pay royalties to the filmmaker(s) if:

- It is held on-site at your non-profit educational institution.
- The event is educational in nature.
- The event is not a fundraiser (i.e. the event does not make a profit from sales of tickets or other event-related items like food).
- There is a discussion of the educational elements of the work after the showing.

Chapter should refer to their own institution's policies regarding copyright and fair-use doctrine, but in the absence of policy, the above can help keep you out of trouble.

If you have any questions regarding these guidelines, or project development in general, please contact the AMSA Director of Student Programming at dsp@amsa.org or 703.839.8413.

¹ See http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode17/usc_sec_17_00000110----000-.html