How to Develop Legally Correct and Educationally Useful Programs

When developing educational programs, it is important to ensure that they are both legally correct and educationally useful. This means understanding copyright law and fair use, as well as instructional design principles.

Copyright Law and Fair Use

Copyright law protects the original works of authors, including literary, artistic, and musical works. This means that you cannot use someone else's work without their permission. However, there are some exceptions to this rule, including fair use.



Better IEPs: How to develop legally correct and educationally useful programs by Barbara D. Bateman

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Fair use is a legal doctrine that allows you to use copyrighted material without permission for certain purposes, such as criticism, commentary,

news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research. However, fair use is not a blanket exception to copyright law. In order to use copyrighted material under fair use, you must meet four factors:

- The purpose and character of your use. Courts will consider whether
 your use is commercial or non-commercial, and whether it is
 transformative. Transformative uses are more likely to be considered
 fair use than non-transformative uses.
- 2. The nature of the copyrighted work. Courts will consider whether the work is published or unpublished, and whether it is a creative or factual work. Creative works are more likely to be protected by copyright than factual works.
- 3. The amount and substantiality of the portion used. You cannot use a substantial portion of the copyrighted work without permission. The amount and substantiality of the portion used will vary depending on the nature of the work.
- 4. The effect of your use on the market for the copyrighted work. Courts will consider whether your use will harm the market for the copyrighted work. If your use will harm the market, it is less likely to be considered fair use.

If you are not sure whether your use of copyrighted material is fair use, it is best to err on the side of caution and obtain permission from the copyright holder.

Instructional Design Principles

In addition to being legally correct, educational programs should also be educationally useful. This means that they should be designed to meet the

needs of the learners and help them achieve their learning goals.

There are a number of instructional design principles that can help you develop effective educational programs. These principles include:

- Identify the learning goals. Before you can develop an educational program, you need to identify the learning goals for the program. What do you want the learners to know, understand, and be able to do by the end of the program?
- Choose appropriate instructional methods. There are a variety of instructional methods that you can use to deliver your program, such as lectures, discussions, demonstrations, and simulations. Choose the methods that will be most effective for achieving your learning goals.
- Develop engaging and interactive content. Learners are more likely to be engaged and motivated if the content is interesting and interactive. Use a variety of media, such as text, images, video, and audio, to create engaging content.
- Provide opportunities for practice. Learners need opportunities to practice what they are learning. Include opportunities for practice in your program, such as quizzes, exercises, and simulations.
- Assess learning. It is important to assess learning to determine whether the program is meeting its objectives. Use a variety of assessment methods, such as tests, quizzes, and portfolios.

By following these instructional design principles, you can develop educational programs that are both legally correct and educationally useful.

Developing educational programs that are both legally correct and educationally useful is essential for ensuring that learners have access to high-quality learning experiences. By understanding copyright law and fair use, as well as instructional design principles, you can develop programs that meet the needs of learners and help them achieve their learning goals.



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