Can I use YouTube videos in my class?

The new legislation allows educational use of publicly-accessible materials available through the internet. This includes permission to “perform it in public” for “students of [an] educational institution”. But you cannot show videos where you “know or should have known that the work...was made available through the internet without the consent of the copyright owner.” (section 30.04 of The Copyright Modernization Act).

So this means you can show YouTube videos in your class, if the videos meet certain conditions.

Guidelines for selecting which videos to show from YouTube:

• choose videos that appear to have been uploaded by the copyright owner. It’s a good idea to stick to “official channels” for example Mr. Bean’s, the Associated Press or an official or one from a company or organization.

• choose videos that have a Creative Commons license, where the copyright owner is actually giving you permission to show their video. Just try to make sure it was the actual copyright owner who uploaded the video under a Creative Commons license.

You can view information about who uploaded the video by clicking on their user name. If it looks like maybe they’re not the copyright owner, you want to steer clear of that video.

Essentially, you can show YouTube videos in your class as long as they have been uploaded by the copyright owner.

If you need help deciding whether a video is ok to show in your class, you can always contact us at copyright@senecacollege.ca. Or you can visit our Copyright guide at http://seneca.libguides.com/copyright.