

Copyright, Clearance, and Original Works

Last Modified on 03/24/2025 10:38 am EDT



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Clearance

To feature original works in your film, you'll need permission from the author. Music, art, photos, stock and archival footage are typical examples of original works you will need to clear. How you get permission will depend on the source of the work. Here are some important terms:

Public Domain: Works that are in the public domain may be used freely, without obtaining permission from the copyright owner. To see if a work is in the public domain, visit the Library of Congress online database at www.copyright.gov.

Non-Public Domain: If the material is not in the public domain, contact the author to seek permission. If it is an image, then the author could sign this [Materials Release](#). A Materials Release is a contract that gives you permission to use the work. If it is music, then you will need a licensing agreement.

Stock/Archival Footage: If you obtain footage through a website or service, they will provide the clearance. Read the terms of service carefully to understand how you may use the work.