What’s Your Problem?
Problem-Based Learning and Copyright Education

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What is Problem-Based Learning (PBL)?

Problem-based learning:

• Students learn by working together to solve “real-world” problems (Scenarios)
• PBL encourages active learning and learning transfer through a student-centered approach
• Uses team and small group work

Copyright education program:

• Students learn about copyright issues and the law by way of common academic scenarios dealing with teaching, research, and publishing
Program overview

Copyright education program:

• Marketing: an interactive working session

• Students: self-selected learners, from Special Collections

• Meet: two-hour session, 1 x month, for 1+ year

• Assignments
Developing Scenarios

Profile of the students:

• Library staff: 1 assists at a service point, 1 curates digital-born objects, 1 curates international materials

• Direct patron inquiries, issues: ownership, if an item is protected, viability of seeking permission

• Bring their own, unresolved Scenarios from work, to the table...then...
PBL: in practice

1. **Lecture:** cover the four factors of Fair Use (Fair Dealing)

2. **Group activity:**
   a) Individually choose 3 Scenarios, apply the Four Factors, and make a Fair Use determination
   b) Discuss, as a group, your Scenarios and determinations

3. **Group activity:**
   a) Each person comes up with their own Scenario
   b) Group decides which Scenarios to tackle
   c) Discuss, apply the Four Factors, and determine if a Fair Use
Adaptations for different audiences

Graduate Student Workshops:
• Prepare graduate students for common copyright and thesis Scenarios they are likely to encounter
• Usually generates many more questions and Scenarios that can be used to engage the whole room

Faculty and Staff Workshops:
• Uses PBL approach to help faculty and instructional designers learn how copyright relates to instructional materials
Questions?

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