Assignment Sheet for Freelancers
Role 4

Topic: Reprinting freelancers' work
Role: Freelance writer

The issue is...

Usually when freelance writers or photographers sell their works to newspapers or magazines, they sell them for a very specific use, such as to be printed in an issue of a magazine. The publishers of the newspaper and magazine can reprint the article or photograph along with the work (magazine or newspaper) in its entirety, so as to distribute the work to readers. But they cannot use the photograph or article in a new work. The original author or photographer usually keeps the right to resell the story or photograph for other uses. But what happens if the magazine or newspaper publishes a digital copy of the original work, such as an online database or a CD of past issues? Is that a reprint or a new use? In several court cases involving publishers such as National Geographic and the *New York Times*, courts have decided—both ways!

The question is...

Should magazines and newspaper be allowed to post a freelance writer's or photographer's work in a digital version, or should the freelancer be paid extra for that right?

Research

Use the internet to research the topic. The following keywords may be useful in your search:

- freelance writer
- freelance photographer
- National Geographic
- copyright dispute
- Tasini v. New York Times

As you review the information you find, be sure to note the date each article was written. Identify who the author is and what perspective he or she might have on the topic.

Take a Stand

1. Would allowing magazines or newspapers to post a freelancer's work online without paying extra likely help or hurt a person in your role? In what way?

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2. Would a person in your role likely be for or against allowing magazines or newspapers to post a freelancer's work online without paying extra? Why?

Persuade Others

Imagine that a lawsuit about this issue has reached the Supreme Court, and you are asked to testify. Several freelancers have sued a national magazine that published their work on a compilation CD without paying extra to get the publisher to pay or remove the works. You must persuade the judges to vote the way a person in your role would want them to vote. Use the Persuasion Map <http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/persuasion_map/> to plan your argument for or against the freelancers' case. Then present your argument to the class. Before you begin, you might want to think about the following:

Think About:

1. What do you want your audience to do after it hears your argument?

2. What are the strongest points you could make about this topic to persuade someone to see it from your point of view? What makes these arguments strong?

3. What facts or scenarios did you read about in your research that might help convince someone to agree with your point of view?

The rules:

- Your group must speak for no less than three minutes and no more than five minutes.

- Every person in your group must speak.

- You must turn in your answers to the questions in the Take a Stand and Think About sections, your completed Persuasion Map, and a completed Persuasion Meter.

Your oral argument will be evaluated **on:**

- how well your argument is defended with specific examples or scenarios.

- how well your argument matches your assigned role.

- how well you present the information, including eye contact with your audience, good rate of speed for your voice, and the clarity of your speech.

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