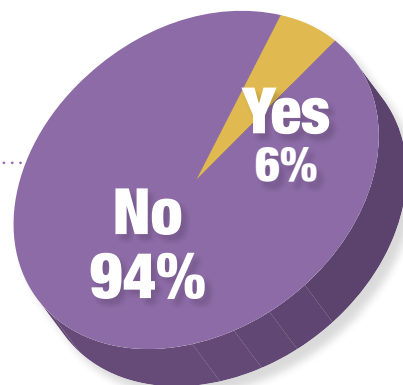


READERS **respond**

POLL RESULTS

Do Students Respect Intellectual Property?

Poll takers and those who sent comments agree overwhelmingly that students do not respect intellectual property enough



Teachers Don't Understand the Law

Respecting intellectual property is often a teachable moment that educators miss because they do not understand copyright laws themselves. I believe that students respect intellectual property when it is properly taught and monitored in the classroom. Students will make mistakes, but they can be corrected in the classroom.

*Pam Krambeck
Educational Service Unit #3
Omaha, Nebraska*

Students Don't Respect Copyrights

Our students respect the moral issues but not draconian copyright laws, seeing them as irrelevant and out of date. No distinction is made between the re-mixing of original works to create new works and blatant piracy. Under those rules, practically every member of Generation Y is a copyright criminal.

*Rozanne Donald
St. Cuthbert's College
Auckland, New Zealand*

Kids Don't Understand Copyright

Students do not disrespect it; the concept is absent. As people from other cultures may inadvertently violate the personal space of some Americans, so our students stomp on IP without malice. Their actions (or ethical standards) germinate in a different culture. We must, therefore, teach cross-cultural understanding of IP.

*Candace Hackett Shively
TeachersFirst.com
Reston, Virginia*

It's Not In Their Nature

It isn't really in their nature to respect intellectual property. Let's face it, this is an abstract concept invented by lawyers to win lawsuits. One of our jobs as educators is to make sure students begin to learn about this concept; I'd say beginning in 6th grade. That way they begin to apply it from 9th grade onward and should have it completely mastered by their last year in high school.

*Jean-Christophe Delmar
French American International School/Lycée
International Franco-Américain
San Francisco, California*

More Than They Used To

Now more than ever, students are respecting intellectual property. Students felt they flew under the radar. Recently a young mother in our area was charged with illegal downloading, and is facing prison time along with an immense fine. That caught their attention.

*Carolyn Paine
Maplewood Middle School
Menasha, Wisconsin*

Students Share Information

Students are growing up using Wikipedia as a reference tool and are encouraged to use free or inexpensive open source software. Many class assignments are based on group collaboration. Their understanding of intellectual property is based on sharing information rather than single-ownership rights.

*Ann Bell
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Georgetown, Texas*

They Don't Know What Property Is

Students respect intellectual property if they know what information is property, who that belongs to, and are taught how to give attributions. More often than not, students aren't giving credit to authors of materials because they simply don't know the difference between something that has been written by someone and information that exists on the Internet to inform others about a particular topic. Further, students aren't sure how to use and filter the information that they are exposed to.

*Laticha Sotero
RMC Research Corporation
New York, New York*

LETTERS

Computers Are Good at Repetition

This question, Can Computers Tutor Students as Effectively as Teachers? (Point/Counterpoint, *L&L*, March/April 2008, p. 8), is definitely emotionally charged, as evidenced by the reader responses. Perhaps a better question is "What ways can computers be effectively used to tutor students?" Computers certainly have the advantage of being infinitely patient and never get bored with asking similar questions hundreds of times. Computers should be used to offload any repetitive tutoring tasks so the teachers can be freed up to help students in ways that can't be done by computers.

*Kathy Slattengren
Priceless Parenting
Kenmore, Washington*