

Sourcing quality information and images for

Avoiding plagiarism, respecting copyright and some tips from PDST for taking great photos

When we, as teachers, assign a project involving research to a group of pupils, they have so many sources of quality information/images through use of the internet. It is all too easy (and of no educational value) for them to copy and paste this content and present it as their work with no engagement or reflection with the subject matter. To put it bluntly, this is plagiarism.

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

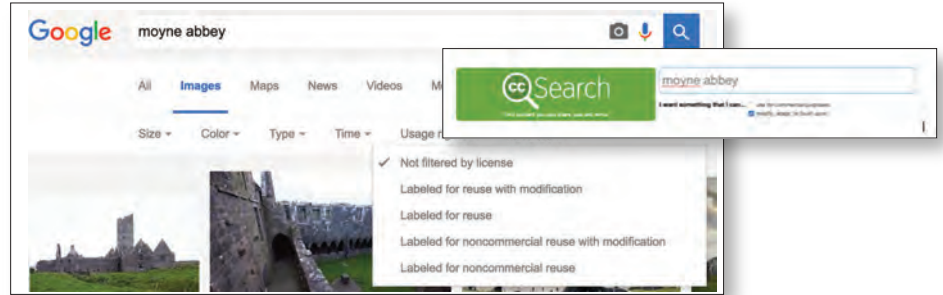
- ✎ turning in someone else's work as your own;
- ✎ copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit;
- ✎ failing to put a quotation in quotation marks;
- ✎ giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation;
- ✎ changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit;
- ✎ copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing the reader with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. The same applies to the use of an image, video or piece of music in work produced without receiving proper permission or providing appropriate citation is plagiarism.

Derived from www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism

While the big search engines return a myriad of images to support most project titles, the licensing attached to images is not clear from the outset. It is safer to assume that the use of images taken from the Internet requires permission and the correct licenses. For example, if I want to get an image to support a project I am undertaking on Moyne Abbey, there is a temptation to go to Google Images and take the best images presented to me.

As you can see, the images are not



filtered by license on my initial search so I have to explicitly use the **Search tools - Usage rights - Labeled for noncommercial reuse** options before an image can be used (and it should still be cited).

Technological advances enable copyright owners to identify unlicensed

digital images and act to protect their rights. It is important to appreciate that digital images are 'fingerprinted' so they can be tracked and found in use, even if modified, recreated or only partially used. The image is then flagged to the copyright owner so that they can check whether the correct license or

TIPS FOR TAKING GREAT PHOTOS!

Gridlines help to line up a photo

Turning on gridlines displays a series of lines on the screen of the camera app and are based on the 'rule of thirds' – one of the most well-known principles of photographic composition. The rule of thirds is that if you place points of interest in the intersections or along the lines, your photo will be more balanced and viewers will interact with the image more naturally.

For most devices, to switch on gridlines, go to Settings – Photos/Camera – Gridlines on



The remnants of a hydro electric wheel in the rubble of a demolished building



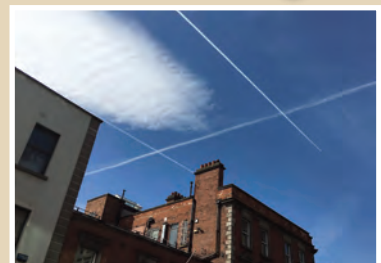
Our focus on a swan along the River Moy

Keep the subject in focus

Many great photos include just one interesting subject. It is easier to get the composition right when your photo only has one subject. By tapping on the subject of the photo (if the device is touch screen), the subject of the photo is brought into sharp focus. Empty space around the photo can also assist in bringing the subject out more.

Look for unusual perspectives

A memorable photo can be created by taking it from an unusual perspective. Pilots creating an x's and o's grid over Dublin



for projects

Search

Search engine

permission is in place.

Copyright protection begins from the moment a photo or other image is created. No notice is required, which means that if you find an image on the Internet without a copyright notice, it doesn't mean it's in the public domain (work that is not protected by copyright). Due to the complexity surrounding copyrighted images, it is advised to do some research to determine the copyright status of any work you wish to use.

wherewestand.gettyimages.com/copyright/essentials

A small number of schools in Ireland have received 'cease and desist' letters

from large commercial image companies for copyright infringement due to licensed images used without permission on school websites/blogs/published projects. Large fees/penalties have been demanded and it has been an expensive oversight in many cases. Creative commons image search (<https://search.creativecommons.org/>) and Photos for Class (<http://www.photosforclass.com/>) provide a means of searching for copyright free images from the outset and in the case of Photos for class, the image is cited automatically when downloaded.

Rather than depending on the internet as the source of all digital images, we can

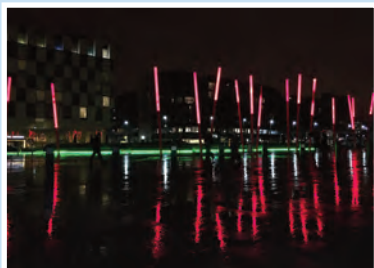
all use a range of mobile devices with many smartphones and tablet devices having more powerful cameras than professional photographers had up to 10 years ago. However, 'pointing and shooting' does not usually make a great photo so below are a few tips you might try (applicable to both school based projects and indeed holiday photos!)

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Opportunities with reflections

We get so much rain in Ireland that it provides for great reflection photos in puddles and larger bodies of water. Mirrors, sunglasses, glass, metallic surfaces, etc can also be used.

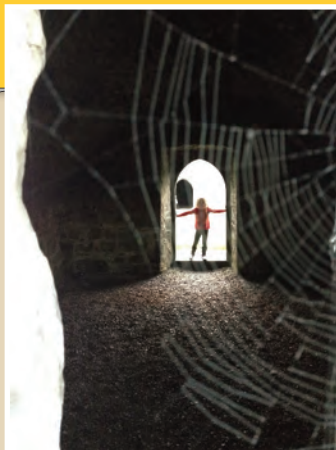


Reflections in puddles at Grand Canal Square

Use leading lines

A leading line is any line in a photo that draws the viewer into the picture, from one part of the photo to another thus creating a sense of depth in an image.

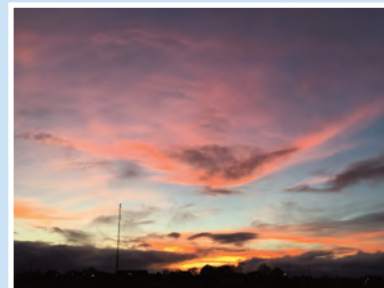
Exploring the inner ruins of Moynes Abbey



Looking through the spider's web and doors of Rosserk Abbey

Be different

As previously stated, pupils can be taught to consider composition and the subject of the photo. However, some lovely photos come out of unusual and unique ideas and perspectives. "Photography is the only language that can be understood anywhere in the world": Bruno Barbey



Of course, nature often presents beauty to us and all we have to do is 'point and shoot'!

