Using copyrighted materials in academics

Licensed & Copyrighted
- Library online resources (subscribed databases) fall into narrow restriction: Licensing trumps copyright. Licenses usually require linking from Blackboard to articles. Teach Act and Fair Use do not apply.

Teach Act Exemption
- Exemption designed specifically for online instruction. Northwood must provide a Copyright Policy. Additional requirements apply. If the Teach Act doesn’t fit, try Fair Use.

Fair Use Exemption
- Requires weighing four factors, including educational use. Fair Use checklist.

Permission
- Obtain permission when no copyright exemptions fit the intended use. Sample permission letter to modify.

Public Domain
- Copyright Office defines public domain. Being “on the web” does not simply equate with being in the public domain. There is copyright on the web.

Linking
- Best Choice when technically possible — no loading, no pasting, no scanning needed, no permissions to seek, no exemptions to invoke.

Least risk of violation
- Most risk of violation