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# Permission Guidelines for Authors

We ask that you note the permissions clause in your contract, in which the following appears:

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Using material in the public domain does not require permission. To determine what is in the public domain, please see *The Chicago Manual of Style,* 18th edition, sections 4.20–4.34. The following chart may be used as a quick guide to help you determine whether material is in the public domain:

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| --- | --- |
|  | **Status** |
| **United States** |  |
| Before 1930 | Public domain. |
| 1930–1963 | 95 years from publication or registration, *if* published with notice and renewed in 28th year after publication. If not renewed, public domain. The online Stanford Copyright Renewal Database is a  valuable tool for checking renewal status. |
| 1964–1977 | 95 years from publication or registration, if published  with notice. |
| 1978 and later | Life of the author plus 70 years. In the case of works for hire, 95 years from publication or 120 years from creation, whichever is shorter. |
| **Canada** |  |
| All years | Life of author plus 50 years. |
| **Other Countries** |  |
| All years | Life of author plus 70 years. |

*What requires permission?*

No publisher can interpret the fair-use provision of the copyright Act of 1976 with complete accuracy. Based on our research of industry standards and in accordance with the *Chicago Manual of Style*, (see chapter 4), we recommend the following broad guidelines for obtaining permissions.

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| **Type of Work** | **Permissions Guidelines**  **(What you should get permission to use.)** |
| Nonfiction Book or Other Lengthy  Work | Quotations of more than 500 words in total throughout your manuscript. |
| Article, Short Essay, Speech, Sermon,  or Conference Paper | Quotations of 10 percent of the total work or 250 words (whichever is less)  throughout your manuscript. |
| Article of 1,000 words or less | Quotations of more than 50 words throughout your manuscript. |
| Novel or Book-Length Fiction | Quotations of more than 100 words throughout your manuscript. |
| Poetry | Quotations of 10 percent of the total poem or 10 lines (whichever is less) throughout your manuscript. \*\*\*Regardless of the length of the poem, using  an entire stanza of poetry always requires permission. |
| Song Lyrics | Treat as poetry (see above). |
| Prayers | Quotations of 10 percent or more of the total prayer throughout your  manuscript. |
| Drama, Fictional TV Shows, and  Movies | Quotations of more than 100 words in total throughout your manuscript.  \*\*\*Be careful with poetic drama, which should be treated as poetry. |
| Nonfiction TV Show or Documentary | Quotations of 10 percent or 250 words (whichever is less) throughout your  manuscript. |
| Tables, Graphs, Maps, Illustrations, Photographs (see #5 below) of  Paintings, Other Art | These require permission unless they are Public Domain/Fair Use (see table on previous page). For more on illustrations, see *Chicago Manual of Style*, 18th edition, sections 4.101-4.105. |
| Unpublished Material (such as a  letter, diary, or manuscript) | These require permission unless they are Public Domain/Fair Use (see table  on previous page). |
| Interviews. See “Interview Release FAQ” on the [Manuscript Preparation Guidelines](https://www.wjkbooks.com/Pages/Item/1331/Submit-a-Manuscript.aspx) web page for full details. | A release should be obtained from the person at the time of the interview.  An “Interview Release Form” can be downloaded on the [Manuscript Preparation Guidelines](https://www.wjkbooks.com/Pages/Item/1331/Submit-a-Manuscript.aspx) web page |
| Web (online) materials | Works posted on the Web are “published” in the sense of copyright (see  *Chicago Manual of Style,* 18th edition, section 4.13) and must adhere to the permission guidelines above. |
| Your Own, Previously Published Work | Material that is your own that has been previously published in another copyrighted publication must adhere to the permission guidelines stated  above for the appropriate length/type of material. |

*Requesting Permission*

Before requesting permissions, please review the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 18th edition, section 4.100 (for text) and/or sections 4.101-4.105 (for illustrations). We’ve provided a “Sample Permissions Letter” on the [Manuscript Preparation Guidelines](https://www.wjkbooks.com/Pages/Item/1331/Submit-a-Manuscript.aspx) web page. It may help to mention that you are publishing with a nonprofit press. Some permission grantors will reduce the fee for nonprofits.

We ask that you:

1. Request permissions for all editions of the work, print and digital, and all promotional materials associated with the work, including world rights in all languages, for the life of the work. If only partial rights are granted, you must follow up for the rest with the appropriate rights holder.
2. Complete the “Permissions Checklist” available for download, in Word or Excel, on the [Manuscript Preparation Guidelines](https://www.wjkbooks.com/Pages/Item/1331/Submit-a-Manuscript.aspx) web page. Please include details for all works cited and their permissions status. **This completed checklist and a copy of all permission correspondence, including invoices and license agreements, must accompany the manuscript**.
3. Send a copy of original quoted material so that we can verify accuracy of the transcription.
4. Compile a listing of all credit lines for the permission acknowledgments. Check the permission license/agreement from the copyright holder for their stipulated credit line.
5. Photographs: please provide a signed “Photo Use Release Form” from the person(s) featured in the photo. Professionally shot photos also require a “Photo Use Release Form” from the photographer or studio. Both forms are available on the [Manuscript Preparation Guidelines](https://www.wjkbooks.com/Pages/Item/1331/Submit-a-Manuscript.aspx) web page.

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