

Copyright Crusaders: An Evidence-Based Initiative for Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) Integrity

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INTRODUCTION

Background

- Uncited or improperly used copyrighted materials in CNE presentations pose ethical, legal, and accreditation risks.
- Common violations include use of external images, charts, or models without attribution.
- These practices undermine the credibility of CNE offerings and violate both institutional policy and ANCC/ACCME standards.
- Ensuring proper attribution supports professionalism, scholarly integrity, and accreditation readiness.

Purpose

This project aimed to improve copyright and attribution compliance in CNE presentations by:

- Auditing current presentation practices
- Providing targeted education to nurse planners and presenters
- Reassessing compliance to evaluate improvement

Framework

The project followed the Iowa Model of Evidence-Based Practice:

- Identified the practice issue through environmental scanning
- Reviewed best practices and accreditation requirements
- Formed a team
- Implemented sustainable educational interventions
- Evaluated outcomes through reassessment and feedback

Objectives of Poster

After viewing this poster, the learner will:

1. Identify common forms of copyright infringement and plagiarism found in accredited Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) presentations.
2. Demonstrate evidence-based strategies for improving compliance with copyright and attribution standards in CNE content.

METHODS

Initial Audit

Audit a 10% sample of recent accredited CNE presentations for:

- Use of copyrighted materials (images, text, tables)
- Missing or improper attributions
- Instances of plagiarism

Outcome: Establish a baseline of current compliance.

Educational Intervention

Deliver education to nurse planners on:

- Copyright basics
- Fair use limits
- Proper attribution and use of Creative Commons materials
- Plagiarism avoidance

Format: Live session plus a quick-reference tool

Content Revision Request

Requested updates from planners of audited presentations to correct or revise non-compliant materials based on the education provided.

Post Education Audit (ongoing)

Re-examine the same sample presentations (or updated ones) to assess improvements in copyright compliance.

Peer Review Enhancement

Added a required question to the peer review form:

- *Has the presenter appropriately cited all materials and adhered to copyright standards?*

RESULTS

Key Findings

Audit

- 6 of the 50 audited CNE activities (12%) showed copyright non-compliance, primarily due to missing or incorrect citations for images and graphs.
- Post Education audit- improving compliance with copyright and citations.

Learner Feedback from education

- Acquired skill to properly cite images and provide credit.
- Gained awareness about copyright rules (e.g., Google image use).
- Discovered sources for Creative Commons content.
- Apply new knowledge to presentations and DNP projects.
- Found value in AI tools and citation tips.

Pre and post education knowledge survey

Knowledge Gains:

- More learners identified that:
 - All borrowed content requires attribution
 - Images without copyright notices are not free to use
 - Attribution should be placed on the same slide

Confidence Boost:

- Pre: Mostly low to moderate confidence
- Post: Majority reported high confidence

Impact:

- A brief session led to clear improvements in knowledge and confidence on copyright standards.

[Copyright Guidance documents](#)



DISCUSSION/IMPLICATIONS

- Highlights the need for ongoing education and monitoring to ensure CNE compliance.

- Iowa Model enabled a structured, team-based approach to issue identification and solution planning

- Reinforces the role of evidence-based processes in maintaining the integrity of accredited education.

Sustainability Strategies:

- Embed annual audits into CNE quality assurance.
- Integrate copyright education into:
 - New nurse planner orientation
 - Standard presentation review workflows

[Test Your Copyright Smarts!](#)



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