Using Internet Content, like YouTube Videos, to Teach Your Students

The Copyright Act includes an exception for educational institutions that permits the Reproduction, Performance, and Communication of copyright-protected content like text, images, videos, and music that is publicly available on the Internet.

*Refer to Section 30.04 of the Copyright Act.

Reproduction: Content that is publicly available on the Internet can be copied.

Performance: Content that is publicly available on the Internet can be performed in the classroom.

Communication: Content that is publicly available on the Internet can be made available to your students by posting the content on your college’s learning management system.

Publicly Available means online sources like websites that copyright owners have made available for the public to access and use freely, without restrictions.

When using content from online sources:
• Avoid content from online sources that are password protected or access requires a login.
• Avoid content that is protected by a technological protection measure (TPMs) or digital locks.
• Avoid content that may have been posted to the online source without the permission of the copyright owner.
• Avoid content that is accompanied by a clearly visible copyright notice that prohibits educational use.

Always cite your source! Remember to acknowledge the online source and author of the copyright-protected work that has been reproduced, performed, or communicated.

Properly cited content from publicly available online sources can be:
• Distributed to students in your classroom as paper handouts.
• Posted to your college’s learning management system as digital handouts.
• Included in presentation slides and posted to your college’s learning management system.
• Performed in the classroom.

Providing links and hyperlinks is a good alternative to reproducing online content.

For more information, always refer to your college’s copyright practices or ask the person designated by your college to answer copyright questions. Your college library is a good place to start!