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Lesson 4: WordPress Themes

INTRODUCTION

This lesson covers the process of changing the **Theme** of your blog in **WordPress.com**. You will also continue to study training and informational videos related to WordPress. In addition to the *WordPress for Beginners* training videos you have started, you will now include some videos from WordPress.TV.

Again, you will watch all assigned videos two (2) times:

- The first time - watch the video to first gain an overview of the content
- The second time - watch carefully to study the content and take comprehensive notes

LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe issues related to copyright and blogging.
- Post to your blog.
- Select and change the Theme of your blog.

LEARNING SEQUENCE

Required Reading	Read the following: Lesson 4: WordPress Themes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rule of Law• Copyright law of the United States• Digital Millennium Copyright Act• Blogger Beware: You CAN Get Sued For Using Photos you Don't Own on Your Blog• About Creative Commons• Creative Commons Licenses• Find Creative Commons Licensed Works
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Video Resources	<p>Watch the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copyright Images on your Website or Blog • The First Amendment Does Not Protect Against the Consequences of Your Speech • WordPress Tutorial For Beginners Part 5 – Appearance Settings, Menus and Widgets • Understanding WordPress Themes
Assignments	<p>Complete the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment 4a: Copyright Issues and blogging paper • Assignment 4b: WordPress Tutorial for Beginners video report • Assignment 4c: Watch the WordPress.tv video • Assignment 4c: WordPress Theme Tutorial • Assignment 4d: WordPress Theme Project

INSTRUCTION

In the last lesson you worked with both of your WordPress.com accounts.

- You worked to change some of the features and appearance of your blog by using the Dashboard to change settings, acting as the administrator of your accounts.
- You will continue using the **first WordPress.com account** you created for working through our Lesson tutorials.
- You will be using the **second WordPress.com account** you created for assignment projects.

This lesson will require that you work through each of the following assignments:

- Assignment 4a: Copyright Issues and blogging paper
- Assignment 4b: *WordPress Tutorial for Beginners* video report
- Assignment 4c: Watch the WordPress.tv video
- Assignment 4c: WordPress Theme Tutorial
- Assignment 4d: WordPress Theme Project

Assignment 4a: Copyright Issues and Blogging



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Over the past 20+ years the Internet has been viewed in a variety of ways or perhaps a combination of the following:

- Some think of the Internet like the Wild West, a rugged place where you are free to stake a claim or a homestead wherever the trail may take you.
- Some think of the Internet like pirates on the high seas, where adventure and booty abound, without any regard for law.
- Others think of the Internet is just a technology utopia, where everything is free, anyone can do what they want, and everyone is one big happy family.

Rule of Law

Reality is something very different. In the United States we live in a country that is governed by the Rule of Law.

Read [Rule of Law](#) before you continue.

One such rule of law is that, in the United States, as well as in most countries throughout the world, there are laws that govern how we can or cannot use the creative and intellectual properties of others.

Read the following articles in Wikipedia:

[Copyright law of the United States](#)

[Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#)



Write a one page summary paper of each of these two articles. Turn in: You will submit these two summary papers as part of this assignment.

Copyright Issues

When you are done though, you may still wonder to some extent what you can and cannot do. To help better explain the implications of these laws you are going to watch a video presented by Roger Williams Media, *Copyright Images on your Website or Blog* (2:54).



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Consider This

What are potential consequences of posting images that you do not own? Take time to review the recommendations provided in the following article which includes a personal account of an individual that learned that it is possible to be sued for violating copyright.

[Blogger Beware: You CAN Get Sued For Using Photos You Don't Own on Your Blog](#)

Now that you are informed about the importance of using approved images in your blog it is time to focus on what you say in your blog. Attorney Ruth Carter provides insight about the First Amendment. Watch, *The First Amendment Does Not Protect Against the Consequences of Your Speech* (2:26).



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Write a brief combined summary of the videos and article: Copyright Images on your Website or Blog, and The First Amendment Does Not Protect Against the Consequences of Your Speech, and [Blogger Beware: You CAN Get Sued For Using Photos You Don't Own on Your Blog](#). Turn in: You will submit this summary paper as part of this assignment.

Creative Commons

So, what do you do if you need resources and want to abide by the law? Creative Commons was designed as a way to help people who create resources to share their work and for people who need resources to find them.

Research each of the following pages:

[About Creative Commons](#)

[Creative Commons Licenses](#)

[Find Creative Commons Licensed Works](#)



Write a one to two page summary paper describing what Creative Commons is, what Creative Commons licenses do for enabling the sharing of work, and how you would find works that have been licensed under a Creative Commons license. Turn in: You will submit this summary paper as part of this assignment.



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Assignment 4b: Watch the *WordPress Tutorial for Beginners* videos

For this assignment you will watch one video that explains how to set up your Theme in WordPress, and will also introduce you to a future topic called Widgets. You will watch this video twice.

First viewing:

Watch *WordPress Tutorial for Beginners Part 5 – Appearance Settings, Menus, and Widgets* (34:19) and focus on getting a general overview of the material presented. At this point do not be too concerned about what buttons are being pushed, concentrate on the objectives.



Second viewing:

Watch the video a second time. During this second viewing you will focus on specific details. You now want to carefully examine the process that is followed to achieve the objectives presented in that video.



Take your time, pause the video often to take notes on what you are learning. For this video you will need to take 1-2 pages of notes. Turn in: For this assignment you will turn in a copy of your notes for the video.

Assignment 4c: Watch the *WordPress.tv* video

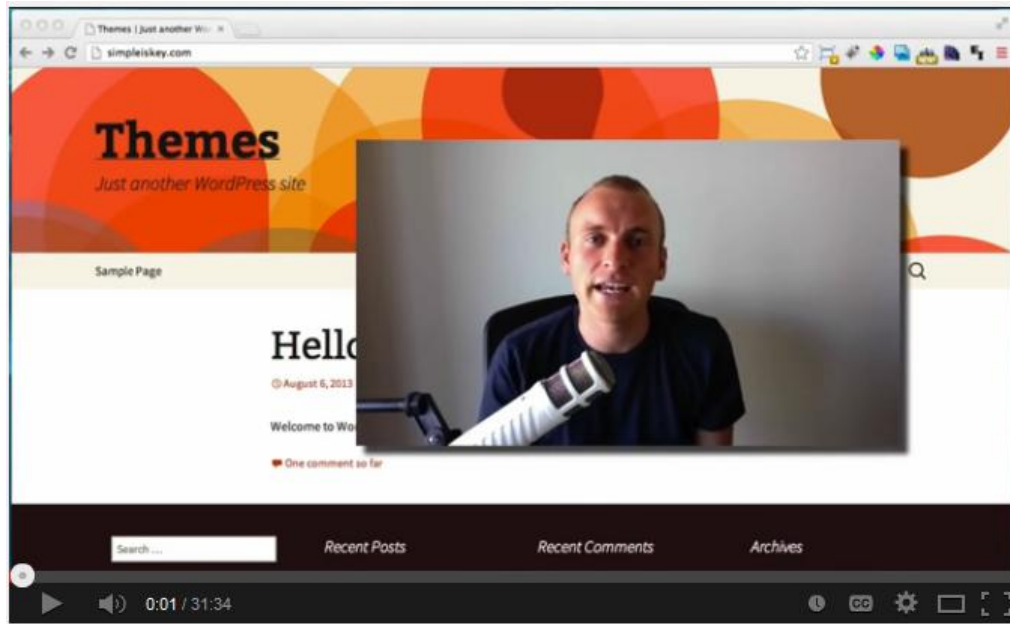
Here is another look at how to set up your Theme in WordPress. For this assignment you will watch a video that explains how to set up your Theme in WordPress. You will watch this video twice.

First viewing:



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Watch *Understanding WordPress Themes* (31:34) and focus on getting a general overview of the material presented. At this point do not be too concerned about what buttons are being pushed, concentrate on the objectives.



Second viewing:

Watch the video a second time. During this second viewing you will focus on specific details. You now want to carefully examine the process that is followed to achieve the objectives presented in that video.



Take your time, pause the video often to take notes on what you are learning. For this video you will need to take 1-2 pages of notes. Turn in: For this assignment you will turn in a copy of your notes for the video.

Assignment 4d: WordPress Theme Tutorial

Now it is time to go hands-on into WordPress and begin to apply some of what you have learned. A resource guide has been created to step you the process of selecting and changing a WordPress theme. Review the following guide to work through the steps needed to complete Assignment 4d: WordPress Theme Tutorial.



WordPress Theme Tutorial



Turn in: Email your instructor the name of this assignment and the complete blog address for this blog: Assignment 4d - blog address.

Assignment 4e: WordPress Theme Project

It's your turn now!



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- Sign into your **second WordPress.com account**
- Open your project blog
- Using the process you learned in Assignment 4d, step through the same activities so that your project blog has the same Theme (iTheme2) as your tutorial blog
- Add a new text Post to your project blog explaining what you learned in this Lesson



Turn in: Email your instructor the name of this assignment and the complete blog address for this blog: Assignment 4e - blog address.

PRACTICE

1. Define what a WordPress Theme is and write an explanation that you could use to share with someone who knows nothing about WordPress.
2. Discuss reasons why you might change your blog Theme.
3. Perform an Internet search for custom WordPress Themes and look for both free Themes and Themes that are for sale. What differences do you notice between these two types of Themes?

SUMMARY

So what should you take away from this lesson?

- You should be able to describe issues related to how copyright and the Rule of Law inform your decisions regarding blogging.
- You should be able to discuss what is important about a Theme.
- You should be able to find new Themes.
- You should be able to demonstrate changing your Theme.

ASSIGNMENTS

Note: Assignment details are located within the lesson.

1. Assignment 4a: Copyright Issues and blogging
2. Assignment 4b: Watch the *WordPress Tutorial for Beginners* videos
3. Assignment 4c: Watch the *WordPress.tv video*
4. Assignment 4d: WordPress Theme Tutorial
5. Assignment 4e: WordPress Theme Project



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