Greetings:

The following are comments from high school juniors and seniors in my TV & Sound Production class at Harkness Career & Technical Center in Cheektowaga, NY.

Joseph Mattimore
TV & Sound Production
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Willie Cuebas-
Lackawanna, NY
Rap Artist

 Intellectual property is an important thing to me because I think it is messed up that you work so hard to create a song and it is so easy for it to be stolen/leaked. If all your hard work was stolen then it would be a waste because all you're doing is making something that is going to get stolen later on in life.

Erick Lindberg
Cheektowaga, NY
Recording Engineer/ Videographer/ Guitarist
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I don't agree with stealing any kind of files; whether it be music, movies or computer programs. I think the reason why it is such a problem is because people simply can't afford to buy them. Especially with this economy it is very hard to buy extra things like that, but people always want them. I think if there was a way to get files cheaper, it wouldn't be such a problem. Apple iTunes is creating a way to come up with cheaper music, or movies. But to some people credit cards aren't at their disposal, or this still is out of their budget. Unless artists put out music, or movies, cheaper P2P file sharing will always exist; legal or not.

Casey Morris
Tonawanda, NY
Disk Jockey/Mixer
duketths@hotmail.com

 I don't agree with stealing files in general but there are certain instances where I believe it is ok to do so. If you want to hear a song that was recorded 20 years ago that's already made the maximum amount of money on it you shouldn't have to pay into it. It's already made it's maximum amount of money, why should you have to pay to hear it just because you weren't born or didn't know about it. Newer songs that are still making money you should pay for but songs that don't make money anymore (ex: Beethoven, The Doors, etc…) you should be able to get for free.

Jordon Klumpp
Hamburg, NY
Recording Engineer

 I do not agree with piracy of files or anything for that matter. It is stealing of someone else's property that they worked hard to make. It is not right to steal things from a store, so why would it be right to steal someone else's hard work. The government could find the sites that endorse piracy and stop them from doing so. They could either

make them switch to making the customers pay money for property or just stop them from running as a website.

Ben Roesser
Amherst, NY
Videographer, Video Producer, Professional Gamer
    I believe that intellectual property should be displayed by however the person who thought of it was. If they wanted to make a film to inspire people and have a good purpose give it away for free to branch out to as many people as possible. If they only want to make music to make money they deserve the rights to protect that. If I were to create a song or film or anything I would try to use it to change people or make a point and offer it for free to easily get it to the public. Illegal downloading will always be happening though and it will be very difficult to try to even contain the masses of pirates.

Marc Coppola
Tonawanda, NY
Photographer
    As much as anyone wishes that copyrighted material will be banned to illegally download, there will always be a way to get the files for free. The downloading programs are always one step ahead which can cause a controversy with any artist looking to make a living with their talents. I have aspirations of making a living taking pictures for people. I could never achieve this if people could just download the pictures I take instead of paying me for them. In my opinion, it is just like stealing the Mona Lisa. Every artist creates art to express themselves and to make a living. I don't think we will ever be able to completely shut down illegal downloading and file sharing because of the advances made in technology every day. The people making the systems to do these things are constantly updating the programs to be more efficient and it just promotes the downloading to be easier.

Jeff Beranek
Amherst, NY
Video engineer
    I think copyright laws are important because if everybody downloaded movies and music for free then the artists wouldn't be making a profit and would not have motivation to continue making them. I think there are things that the government can do to reduce the amount of pirated media over the internet.
A lot of the people that download things for free are kids who are not old enough to get a job and have no way to make money to legally buy the music that they like. If the government let kids get jobs they could make money and a lot of them would buy music and movies instead of pirating them offline.

Dion Brown
Amherst, NY
Video engineer
Poet
Recording engineer
    I think that copyright laws should be better then what they are now, but I don't think that you can really stop people form stealing intellectual property. There will always be a way to get around the copyright laws once it's on the internet. I think the government could only try to reduce the amount of intellectual property stolen. I think the reason why people are stealing the intellectual property is because they don't know the impact that stealing the property is making people lose lots of money and their jobs in the their creative field.

Chris Labby
Amherst, NY
Recording engineer, Guitarist/Songwriter
    I think it is important for people to realize that when they steal a song it's taking money away from hardworking musicians. Sure, there are the big time bands that don't really need the money, but a lot of bands are struggling to make a living. Stealing music is equivalent to slavery, because people work very hard to write, and then they don't get paid for their labor. However, it is nearly impossible to stop piracy because someone will always find a way around laws.

Brandon Tout

Cheektowaga, NY

Recording engineer, DJ

    As much as I believe it is a growing problem, I feel copyright laws should remain the same. There are way bigger issues in this country then people illegally downloading music. No matter what you do people will always find a way to get around the laws and continue to illegally download music. Sure its important and many hardworking bands are losing out on needed profit that they deserve; but, it would be almost impossible to stop the piracy of music.

Mark Gray

Amherst, NY

Recording engineer, multi musician

    Yes many people use different programs to download music and videos illegally. And a lot of these programs cause viruses and so I believe that there should stricter rules on people who do this. and the threats that they give the people saying that there will be a fine I never heard about anyone who actually had to pay one but yes there should be stricter rules.

Matt Rusinski

Cheektowaga, NY

Recording engineer, musician, and film engineer.

    Yes many people do download tons of music illegally. This is however not the biggest problem in our country. Artists do work very hard on there work and should get awarded for it. But there is a war going on and there are murders in the world. This problem is not huge problem but it should be dealt with in the future after the major problems in the world are taken care of.