

# Adaptation and Attribution for OER

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The exercise below will help you get practice locating openly licensed or public domain materials, altering content for your needs, and providing an appropriate attribution for the original source. The adaptation process will vary for different types of content, but the attribution process should remain the same.

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## Find an Item

First, find a resource you want to edit. This can be a simple document, PowerPoint, or image. It does **not** need to be something you would use in your class.

Here are a few places you can look for practice items:

- [Wikimedia Commons](#) (media)
- [NYPL Digital Collections](#) (images) - Be sure to select **Public Domain**
- [MIT OpenCourseWare Educator](#) (documents, videos, and more)
- [OER Commons](#) (documents, modules, and more) - You can sort by **Media Format** to see only items you are able to easily edit.

If you're having trouble finding an item to use, try one of these example items:

- [Rembrandt van Rijn, Faust](#)
- [Ion, Plato, translated by Benjamin Jowett](#)



## Check the CC License

Once you've located an item you want to adapt, answer the following questions.

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1. What is the copyright status of the item? Is it in the public domain or available under a Creative Commons license?
2. If the work is available under a [Creative Commons license](#), what are you allowed to do with the item?
  - Edit and produce a derivative work
  - Reproduce the work in whole or in part
  - Remix the work by combining it with other materials
  - Share a derivative version under a different license
  - Produce a commercial version of the work
3. If the work is available under a Creative Commons license, which other CC licenses are compatible with it? Use the [CC License Compatibility Chart](#) to see how you can license your adaptation.
  - CC BY
  - CC BY SA
  - CC BY NC
  - CC BY NC SA
  - CC BY ND\*
  - CC BY NC ND\*

\*Note: ND-licensed works are not technically considered OER



## Adapt the Open Item

Now that you know what you can do with the item, change it! Adapt the item in some way that adds meaning or value to the work. For literature, consider adding footnotes or improving the readability of the text by adding headers and images. If you add images or figures, be sure to include alt text and to use colors that are [accessible for those with colorblindness](#).

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### Example Adaptation



Here is an example of an adaptation of [Faust](#) by Rembrandt van Rijn.

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## Attribute and Share

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### Example Adaptation



*Faust in Fall*, licensed [CC 0](#), is adapted by Abbey Elder from [Faust](#) by Rembrandt van Rijn (original image on the right)

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1. Craft your attribution statement. This should include four parts: The item's title, author, license, and a link to its original source. Additionally, you can provide an overview of how it was adapted (images being cropped or texts being updated for a new audience, for example). For additional support, you can use the [Open Washington Attribution Builder](#).
2. Add your attribution statement and/or license to the new item. Creative Commons provides [this handy Wiki](#) to walk you through the technical aspects of that process.
3. (Optional) Share what you've created! Post your new OER in a repository like OER Commons and consider tweeting it out with the hashtag #OERAuthor so we can share your work as well.

