

Be a Scientist

Copying versus Crediting

When you build on someone else's idea, it is important to give them credit. Why isn't this "copying?" Copying means taking the work of someone else and claiming it as your own. If you simply build what some other group built, that is copying. But if you add to another group's idea and acknowledge from where you got your idea, you are doing what scientists and engineers do. When you explain how you used their ideas and made them better, you are adding your contribution to theirs.

This means that you will have to keep good records of where you got your ideas. When you use someone else's ideas, always record from whom you borrowed the idea. Record how you included it in your design, and why you did it that way. Then, make sure to give credit to the other person or group in your presentations.