Seven Questions & Answers

With help from Captain Copyright!!
Question 1

Who owns the copyright of my article?

A. The author
B. The publisher
C. The University
D. A or B or C
Answer

All of them – depending on the situation:
Rights reside with author usually unless given to a publisher per agreement or unless created as a “work for hire” on behalf of the University.
Question 2

What rights might I be signing away to publishers?

A. Reuse an article as a chapter in a book
B. Revise or adapt an article
C. Distribute an article freely to colleagues
D. Reproduce copies of an article for teaching purposes
E. Self archive in an institutional repository or post on your web site
F. All of the above
Answer

Depending on the agreement with the publisher it could be any or all of these rights.
Question 3

How can I retain rights to my own work?

A. You can’t
B. By negotiation
C. Persuasion, bullying, and letters of demand
Answer

Negotiation: Authors have the right to negotiate agreements with publishers. Publishers are used to authors retaining some of their rights.
Question 4

Where can I find information about publisher copyright agreements before I submit a work?

A. In the library  
B. On the publisher’s website  
C. At the US Copyright Office
Publisher’s Website: Many publishers post standard agreements on their website. If not, contact them and request it.

Also, the SHERPA/ROMEO project site provides information on publisher copyright policy and self-archiving rights.
How can I protect my own work if I post it on the web?

A. You can’t; you just gave it away
B. Hire a lawyer
C. By use of creative commons licensing
Answer

Creative Commons: Retain copyright while providing guidelines to viewers on the use of your work.
Question 6

Who owns the content of the courses and course material that I develop?

A. The instructor
B. The Dean
C. The University
D. The ABA
Answer

The instructor: Traditionally. In the academic community, you own the course materials you create with the exception of faculty hired in a position to produce copyrighted materials.
Question 7

Who owns the copyright of work produced by students in my class?

A. The instructor
B. The student
C. The University
D. The State of Hawaii
Answer

The student: Unless the student was hired to create the copyrighted material. You must obtain permission to use student’s work.
Mahalo!

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Reference: American University,
www.american.edu/library/documents/upload/RC_Faculty_Copyright.pdf