

A link to an important article:

The rules of the old Copyright say, among hundreds of other do's and don't's, that I can quote from but not reproduce the entire content of somebody else's writing. That was made abundantly clear to me many years ago, when a (then) well-known magazine "quoted" an entire article I had published in another magazine, slightly changing the first two words. That made it legally a "quote."

Today, I write under another kind of copyright altogether, which in essence says that you can copy, distribute, print even, all my writing, on condition that you do not take anything out of context—you must quote the whole thing—and that you cannot make money from it. Since I have not made much money with my writing myself, that is not much of a point to me. Out-of-context is the important part.

Here, rather than writing something myself, I want to give you the link to the writing of a writer I admire immensely: Arundhati Roy. I have read some of her books, and many of her essays that have always been reprinted widely. This is the introduction to a new book she has written. I found it in its entirety on Truthout, which got it from Outlook India Magazine. I have an easier time reading the Truthout form because it is not embedded among advertising and other distractions.

I highly recommend you read Arundhati Roy's lucid prose. It is a very large view of our man-made world of 2009.

<http://www.truthout.org/0707090?n>