DO YOU HAVE RIGHTS TO THIS MATERIAL?

Copyright protects the creators of original literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual works (Title 17, U.S. Code). The protection extends to both published and unpublished material. "Section 106 of the 1976 Copyright Act generally gives the owner of copyright the exclusive right to do and to authorize others to do the following" (Copyright Basics, US Copyright Office):

* To reproduce the work
* To prepare derivative works
* To distribute copies of the work
* To perform the work publicly
* To display the work publicly

Are you the original creator/author?
If yes, then you are the rights holder.

Did someone else create the work?
If so, then you are most likely not the rights holder.

Did someone assign rights to you through a written assignment?
If yes, then you are the rights holder.