



What Rights and Responsibilities Should Teens Have?

Learn what people think about teen curfews.

**YES, THERE IS A TEEN
CURFEW IN EFFECT.**

Some cities have curfews for teens. A curfew is when you have to be home at a certain (specific) time. These cities make laws that require teens to be in their houses between specific hours, typically at night. There are reasons cities give teens curfews. The following readings will give you more information. Do you think curfews are a good idea? Should teens have a curfew or should they not? As you read the following material think about these questions. Take note of information you feel is important to support your thinking. No one can argue with facts. Or can they?



What Rights and Responsibilities Should Teens Have?

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Key Vocabulary: *Should Communities Set Teen Curfews ?*

Word	Definition	Picture	Sentence
accountable	responsible		Who is accountable for the grades you get in school?
authority	Power over others		The police have the ability to arrest people who break the law.
impose	To establish, to apply		When parents impose rules, they are setting rules that their children must follow.
neglect	A lack of care and attention		If you don't take care of plants they can die from neglect.
restriction	Something that limits activity		A leash is a restriction on a dog's freedom.



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Vocabulary Activity

Read the vocabulary words from the chart. Read the definition. Look at the picture. Read the sentence that goes with each word. On the lines below, write the definition, write your own sentence and draw a picture. I will do the first one for you.

Word

Accountable

Sentence

I am accountable at my house.



Word

authority

Sentence

Picture

Word

impose

Sentence

Picture

Word

neglect

Sentence

Picture

Word

restriction

Sentence

Picture



Should
Communities
Set

Teen Curfews?

by Barbara Bey



Comprehension Coach

The Impact on Our Lives

Curfews: A Brief History

In the Middle Ages, most towns were built of wood and straw, and people used fire for heat and light. If residents forgot to put out their fires at night, they might accidentally set the town on fire. That's how curfews got started. Every night a curfew bell rang to remind villagers to put out their fires. The word *curfew* comes from the French word meaning "cover fire."

In the United States, curfews specifically for young people were introduced in the early 1900s. In many small towns, a curfew bell

signaled to teenagers and children that it was time to go home.

Over the next several decades, the use of curfews declined. More teens were working, and many people felt that curfews were not practical.

During the 1980s, though, violence increased in many neighborhoods of the United States. Some people blamed teens for the increase in crime, and towns began to enforce teen curfews. This trend continued through the 1990s.

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- Learn more about life in the Middle Ages.
- Find out about teen curfews in the United States.

The Importance of Curfews

Once upon a time, parents weren't afraid to set guidelines or **impose restrictions** on their children's behavior. They understood that loving their children required setting limits and saying no.

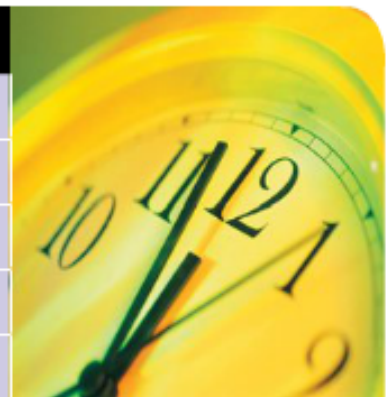
That time is gone. Too many of today's parents just don't want to be responsible for their children.

A case in point: A parent dropped a 12-year-old child off in downtown Orlando at 8 o'clock one morning. At 2 o'clock the following morning, the child was still downtown. That's **neglect**, plain and simple.

Since parents won't parent their children, someone or some **entity** must try to save the youngsters from themselves—and others. If that means imposing a curfew, I say so be it. **1**

Curfew Laws in Five U.S. Cities in 2006

City	Age	Weekday Times	Weekend Times
Orlando, FL	under 18	12:00 am – 6:00 am	12:00 am – 6:00 am
Austin, TX	under 17	11:00 pm – 6:00 am	12:30 am – 6:00 am
Washington, D.C.	under 17	11:00 pm – 6:00 am	12:01 am – 6:00 am
Chicago, IL	under 17	10:30 pm – 6:00 am	11:30 pm – 6:00 am
San Francisco, CA	under 14	12:00 am – 5:00 am	12:00 am – 5:00 am



Interpret the Chart Would a 15-year-old in San Francisco be breaking the curfew at 12:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning?

Enforcing the Curfew

Since 1994, Orlando has **banned** anyone under 18 from a downtown area from midnight until 6:00 a.m. every night. **First-time violators** are asked to leave the downtown area. Repeat offenders are cited for trespassing or held in the auditorium of police headquarters until their parents or guardians pick them up. **2**

There are, of course, exceptions to the rules. If kids are with their parents, traveling on Interstate 4 through the downtown area, working, or responding to an emergency, they're within the law.

Kids who are going to or from an event sponsored by a civic, school, or religious organization are also exempted from the rules.

So far, I think the curfew is working. The downtown area is safer for kids. Kids aren't being harassed. **3** In fact, the curfew hasn't caused much trouble at all.

The police are doing a very good job. They've been taught how to deal with situations and problems without **becoming confrontational**. They issue warnings and give kids a certain amount of time to leave. If the kids won't go, police officers pick them up and call their parents.



Teens at school-sponsored events like games even if the event ends late at night.

Some of these parents are being charged with neglect. Others are encouraged to take parenting classes to learn how to set limits. Whatever happens, parents of kids who are picked up are being forced to be **accountable**.

Some people say that any curfew **puts young people under house arrest**. But we all have restrictions on us. We can't trespass. We can't **loiter** in certain places. If we do, we're subject to arrest. These laws are already on the books.

Helping Parents to Parent

Sure, I wish we didn't have to impose curfews. It's certainly a sad state of affairs. It would be a better solution by far if parents asserted control of their children. But today's parents don't seem to understand the difference between a parent and a buddy. Too many parents want their children to like them.

Used to be, parents could say no and, if their children didn't happen to like them at that moment or that week, the parents **held their ground**. They survived.

Used to be, when young people were out of the house at 2 o'clock in the morning, they were with their parents or another responsible adult. Once upon a time, **chaperoned** group activities ended at 11:00 p.m. and those out on dates had to be home by midnight.

Today, there are too many parents who are simply not equipped to be parents. It's sad but true that their **offspring** are getting into lots of trouble. They are prey to the deviants out on the streets who give them drugs and alcohol, even force them into prostitution. 4

If a legally imposed curfew can save these kids from that kind of fate, I welcome it.

Used to be, we didn't have to worry so much about our kids. Used to be, but not anymore. ❖




Now that you have finished reading *Should Communities Set Teen Curfews?* By Barbara Bey, look at the following pieces of evidence that were taken directly from the story. After reading, decide which claim the evidence supports. If the evidence supports the claim that *Communities **should** set teen curfews*, put the information on that side of the chart. If the evidence supports the claim that *Communities **should not** set teen curfews*, put the information on that side of the chart. If you find additional evidence that you would like to use that is not listed below, please include that as well.



What Rights and Responsibilities Should Teens Have?

Learn what people think about teen curfews.

Key Vocabulary: *Curfews: A National Debate*

Word	Definition	Picture	Sentence
discrimination	treating people unfairly.		He faced discrimination at his job.
prohibit	To keep people from doing something, prevent		My parents prohibit me from going out until I finish my homework.
violate	to go against		You can receive a fine or go to jail if you violate the law.



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Vocabulary Activity

Read the vocabulary words from the chart. Read the definition. Look at the picture. Read the sentence that goes with each word. On the lines below, write the definition, write your own sentence and draw a picture.

Word	Sentence
discrimination	

Word

prohibit

Sentence

Picture

Word

violate

Sentence

Picture

Curfews: A National Debate

Connect Across Texts

You read arguments in favor of curfews in "Should Communities Set Teen Curfews?" Read the opposite point of view in this persuasive commentary.



In the summer of 1995, the District of Columbia passed a law **imposing** a curfew on teenagers. The law requires everyone under the age of 17 to be home by 11:00 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. Then they have to stay put until 6:00 a.m. the next morning. The law also **prohibits** drivers under 18 from driving in the District after midnight. Teenagers face punishment if caught in public after curfew. Their parents could be **prosecuted** as well.

In passing this law, Washington, D.C., joined what has become a trend. According to a report in the *American Journal of Police*, 146 of the country's 200 major cities impose curfews of some sort on minors. That's almost 75% of the cities.



Interpret the Graph

What percent of the 200 major U.S. cities have curfews?

Key Vocabulary

- **impose** v., to establish, to apply
- **prohibit** v., to keep people from doing something, to prevent

In Other Words

prosecuted charged by police with breaking the law

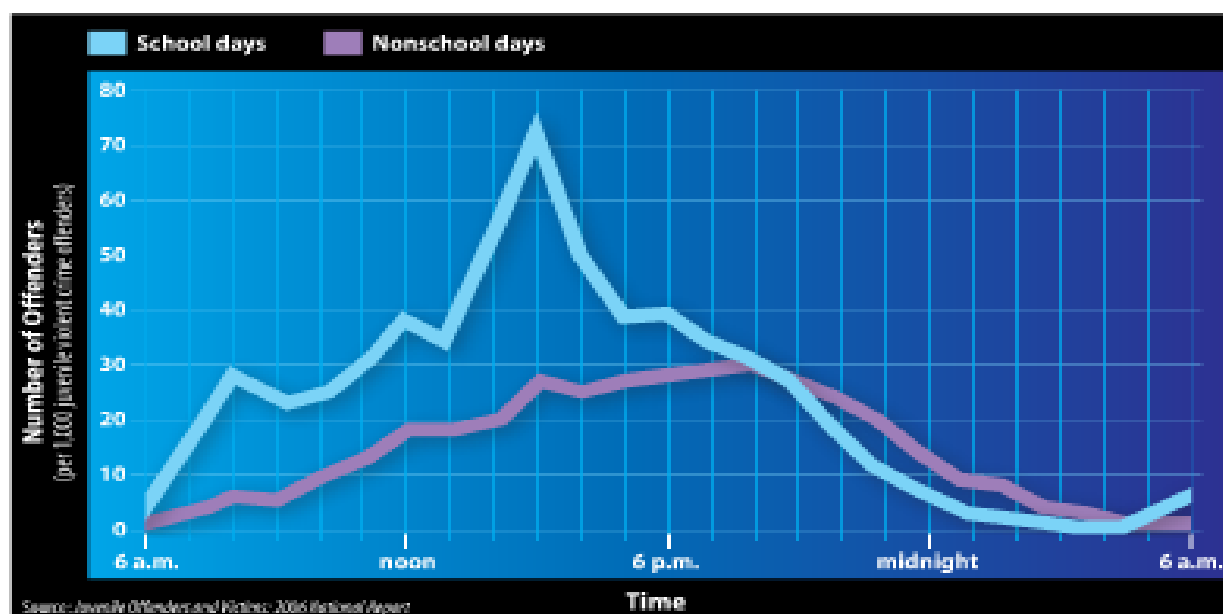


Curfews are one of many **misguided** anti-crime strategies.

Laws like these **divert** attention from the real causes of crime. **1**

The fact is that such laws are **empty political gestures**. They will do nothing to make our streets safer. It is absurd to think that any teenager who is selling drugs or carrying a gun would rush home at 11:00 p.m. to avoid **violating** curfew. Or that this same teenager won't have a false **ID**. **2**

Juvenile Violent Crime



Interpret the Graph At what time during a school day is juvenile crime most likely to occur?

Certainly any crime that would be committed after midnight can just as easily be committed earlier. In fact, the most active period for juvenile crimes is from noon to 6:00 p.m. on school days.

What curfews will do is **wreak havoc with** the constitutional right to freedom of movement. Curfew laws punish the innocent instead of

Key Vocabulary

• **violate** v., to go against

In Other Words

misguided incorrect, unwise

divert shift

empty political gestures passed so the government looks as if it is being helpful

ID identification card

wreak havoc with ruin, destroy



the guilty. They put law-abiding teenagers under house arrest every night of the week. But it's not because they have done anything wrong. It is because of the crimes committed by others.

Curfews criminalize normal and otherwise lawful behavior. Teenagers can't walk the dog or go for an early morning run during curfew hours. Curfew laws **usurp** the rights of parents to raise their children as they think best. It becomes a crime for parents to allow their teenagers to go to the theater or a jazz club. This law **injects** the government where it doesn't belong. 📌

There is also no evidence that curfews work. In Houston, a curfew was introduced, and youth crime went down by 22%. But in New York, where no curfew exists, youth crime went down 30%. In Detroit and New Orleans, youth crime increased after curfews were introduced. And in San Francisco, youth crime went down after a curfew was **repealed**.

Crime and Curfews



📌 **Interpret the Graphic** Which cities have curfews? Does crime always go down when a city has a curfew? How can you tell?

In Other Words
usurp take away
injects puts
repealed removed



Curfews also **squander** police resources that should be used to fight real crime. That is why many police chiefs oppose them.

And inevitably, curfews result in **discrimination**. Studies have consistently found that curfew laws are **disproportionately** enforced in minority communities. 4

In sum, while curfews may give the appearance of bold action, in reality they do far more harm than good. ♦

Now that you have finished reading *Curfews: A National Debate*, look at the following pieces of evidence that were taken directly from the story. After reading, decide which claim the evidence supports. If the evidence supports the claim that *Communities **should** set teen curfews*, put the information on that side of the chart. If the evidence supports the claim that *Communities **should not** set teen curfews*, put the information on that side of the chart. If you find additional evidence that you would like to use that is not listed below, please include that as well.

Curfews: A National Debate

Textual Evidence

- Curfews are one of many misguided anti-crime strategies.
- The most active period for juvenile crimes is from noon to 6:00pm on school days.
- Curfews criminalize normal and otherwise lawful behavior.
- There is also no evidence that curfews work.
- In Detroit and New Orleans, youth crime increased after curfews were introduced.
- Studies have consistently found that curfew laws are disproportionately enforced in minority communities.

- Add any additional pieces of evidence that you would like to include.

Communities should set teen curfews YES	Communities should not set teen curfews NO

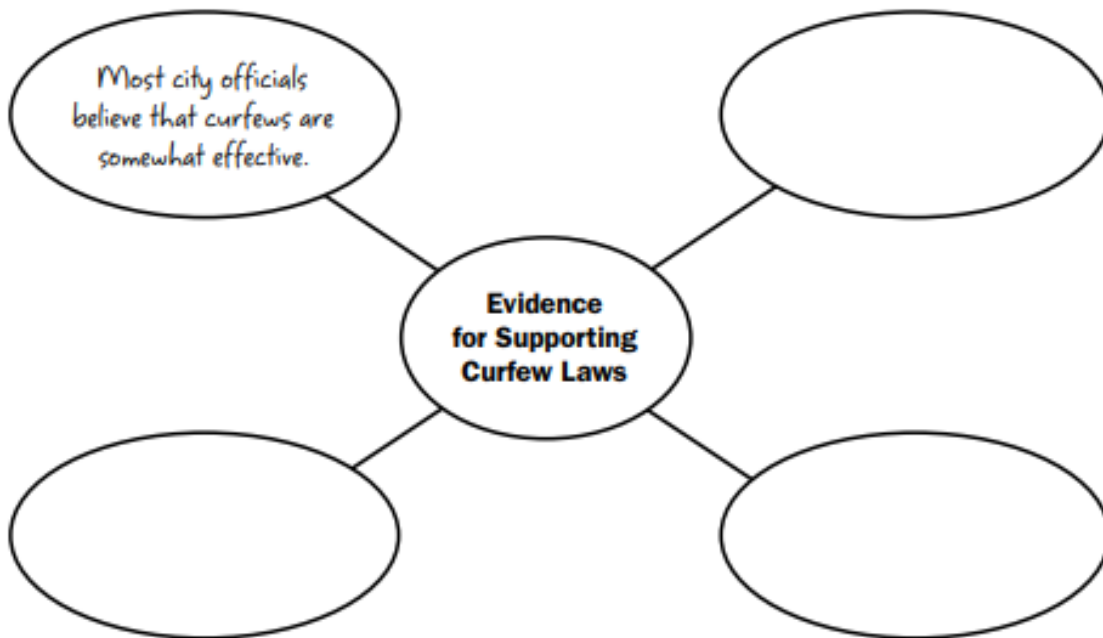
Selection Review Should Communities Set Teen Curfews?

EQ What Rights and Responsibilities Should Teens Have?
Learn what people think about teen curfews.



- A. In "Should Communities Set Teen Curfews?" you read the argument for supporting curfew laws. Complete the web below with evidence from the article, including from the graph.

Details Web



- B. Use the information in the web to answer the questions.

1. Why does the writer believe curfew laws are necessary?

2. How do curfew laws make parents and teens accountable for a teen's actions? Use **accountable** in your answer.

3. Are you convinced that curfew laws make teens safer? Why or why not?

Reflect and Assess

- ▶ Should Communities Set Teen Curfews?
- ▶ Curfews: A National Debate

WRITING: Write About Literature

- A. Plan your writing. Read the opposing opinions. Put an *X* next to the opinion you agree with. Then list examples from each text that support the opinion or oppose it.

- Opinion 1:** Curfews are a good idea.
 Opinion 2: Curfews are a bad idea.

Should Communities Set Teen Curfews?	Curfews: A National Debate

- B. What is your opinion? Write an argument with details from your own experience and evidence from the text.

Where Do You Put the Negative Word?

In the Subject, Object, or Near the Verb

- A negative sentence has one **negative word**. What do these negative words mean?
- The negative word comes between a helping verb and a main verb. The word order of the sentence does not change.

subject
My friends do **not** like the new curfew.

helping verb **verb** **object**

subject

The city will **never** change the law.

helping verb **verb** **object**

- The negative word can be the subject or the object in a sentence. The word order does not change.

Nothing about curfews is simple. Unenforced **curfews** help **no one**.

subject

verb

subject **verb** **object**

Negative Words

never

no one

no

nobody

not

nothing

none

nowhere

Try It

A. Use a negative word to complete each sentence. Say each sentence.

- My town does _____ have a curfew yet.
- _____ is eager for a curfew, either.
- The teenagers here harm _____.
- In this town, a curfew may _____ be necessary.

B. Write two pairs of sentences. In one pair, support curfews. In the other pair, disagree. Use negative words from the chart.

Does the Subject Always Come First?

Not Always

You can begin a sentence with **there is** or **there are**. Then the subject comes after the verb.

- Use **there is** for singular subjects.

There is an important **meeting** of the city council.

verb

subject

- Use **there are** for plural subjects.

There are two **plans** for a curfew.

verb

subject

Try It

A. Use **there is** or **there are** to complete each sentence. Say the sentence and name its subject.

1. (**There is** / **There are**) great interest in the meeting.
2. (**There is** / **There are**) many opinions about this issue.
3. At the meeting, (**there is** / **there are**) no empty seats.
4. Of course, (**there is** / **there are**) a TV reporter in the hallway.
5. (**There is** / **There are**) five or six teenagers ready to speak.

B. Talk with a partner about what might happen next. Write two sentences. Use **there is** for one sentence and **there are** for the other.

81 Where Do You Put the Subject?

Usually Before the Predicate

- Every sentence has a **subject** and a **predicate**. The verb is the most important part of the predicate.

The **teens walked**. The **curfew began**. The **people left**.
subject predicate subject predicate subject predicate

- English sentences usually follow this pattern: **subject** → **verb** → **object**.

The **city had** a **curfew**. **Jeremy left** the **city**.
subject verb object subject verb object

Try It

A. Put the words in the right order. Write the new sentence. Punctuate your sentences correctly.

- a curfew / has / our town _____

- the curfew / most of the students / don't like _____

- the student government / some plans / developed _____

- give / good students some benefits / the plans _____

- alternatives to the curfew / present / most of the plans _____

- gives / one of the plans / passes to students with good grades. _____

- good students to stay out late / the passes / allow _____

- earn / free passes for students / good grades _____

- B. Choose words from each column to build four sentences about curfews. You can use words more than once.

Many cities	present	alternatives to curfews.
Curfews	obey	teens from staying out late.
Most teenagers	keep	the rules.
Some parents	have	that teenage years are the best.
		curfews.

9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Write It

- C. Complete the sentences about curfews. Use subject-verb or subject-verb-object order.

13. *Curfews* _____.
14. *Most teens* _____.
15. *Teens who cause trouble* _____.
16. *Cities* _____.

- D. (17-20) Write at least four sentences about keeping city streets safe at night. Use subject-verb or subject-verb-object order.
