

Rules and Responsibilities

Why do rules matter to our lives?

Rules are patterns of behavior that a group agrees to enforce in some manner, with anything from disapproval to severe penalties. When those rules are adopted by government, they become laws that can be enforced with penalties of fines or even jail time. Rules and laws provide us with the ability to plan what we will do and how others will behave in response. Traffic laws are a good example. Driving on the right side of the road, obeying speed limits, requiring drivers licenses all make the highways safer. Not everyone will obey the laws all the time, but in most cases, drivers know what is expected of them and what they can expect from an oncoming vehicle.

Responsibility

A responsible citizen knows and understands what the laws are and obeys them. They may not always agree with them, but for the most part, agrees to follow what the established regulations are. However, civic responsibility goes beyond legal requirements. Responsible citizens look for ways to make their communities better places to live. They support their families and their communities. They volunteer for community projects.

While responsibility involves personal behavior, respect relates to the way we treat others. Respectful citizens allow others to express their opinions and tries to understand why they hold them. Respectful citizens acknowledge others contributions to the community. Sometimes respect means just leaving others alone. It acknowledges others' rights to live their own life in their own way when it is not harming anyone else.

In the United States, the authority to write laws is divided among different levels of government. Congress writes laws that apply to the entire nation that are essential to maintaining peace and order as citizens travel and do business around the country. The state and local governments write laws about matters closer to home. Many state laws are similar across the nation but they are enforced in state and local courts. Education is a good example of state authority. The state legislature establishes the system of Iowa public schools, writes rules on what they teach and how they are governed and authorizes taxes to support them.

Supporting Questions

What does it mean to be a responsible citizen?

- [Boy Raking Leaves on a Front Lawn in Bradford, Vermont, October 1939 \(Image\)](#)
- [Lopez Children Doing Their Homework in Trampas, New Mexico, January 1943 \(Image\)](#)
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- [Woman Walking Across Crosswalk in Harlem, New York, 2008 \(Image\)](#)
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What does it mean to be a responsible citizen?

- [Landscapes of Iowa, Various Dates \(Images\)](#)
- [Girl Scout Garden in Washington, D.C., between 1917 and 1919 \(Image\)](#)
- [Garbage in the Road in Brawley, California, June 1935 \(Image\)](#)
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- [First-Graders Saluting the Flag at a Public School in New York, October 1942 \(Image\)](#)
- [Recycle Poster, between 1970 and 1980 \(Image\)](#)
- [Girls Working Together at School, December 12, 2015 \(Image\)](#)
- [Newspaper Article about the Iowa Hawkeyes' Wave of Support, September 5, 2017 \(Document\)](#)
- [Community Garden in Pella, Iowa, July 2015 \(Image\)](#)

How are rules and laws different in Iowa from other places?

- [Boy Riding Bicycle with Dogs on Leashes, 1928 \(Image\)](#)
- [People Walking on a Dirt Road in Mozambique, March 14, 2010 \(Image\)](#)
- [Crosswalk in New York, 2012 \(Image\)](#)
- [Display from Dublin Bottling Works in Dublin, Texas, September 5, 2014 \(Image\)](#)
- [View of a Car Passenger Wearing a Seat Belt, Date Unknown \(Image\)](#)
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[*Printable Image and Document Guide](#)

Additional Resources

- [Click here for a list of additional resources.](#)

Boy Raking Leaves on a Front Lawn in Bradford, Vermont, October 1939



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Lee, Russell, "Boy raking up leaves on front lawn, Bradford, Vermont," October 1939

Description

This photograph shows a boy raking leaves in a front lawn in Vermont. There are two other boys helping him by putting the leaves in a box.

Source-Dependent Questions

- What evidence shows the boys being responsible in this image?
- Why should responsible people rake their leaves each fall?
- What should the boys do with their leaves to help the environment?

Citation Information

Lee, Russell, "Boy raking up leaves on front lawn, Bradford, Vermont," October 1939. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Lopez Children Doing Their Homework in Trampas, New Mexico, January 1943



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Collier, John, Jr., "Trampas, New Mexico. The Lopez children doing their homework on the kitchen table," January 1943

Description

This photograph shows the Lopez children doing their homework at the kitchen table in Trampas, New Mexico. This photo was taken in January 1943.

Source-Dependent Questions

- How does doing your homework make you responsible?
- How would the boys show they are responsible with their books and assignments?

Citation Information

Collier, John, Jr., "Trampas, New Mexico. The Lopez children doing their homework on the kitchen table," January 1943. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Open Trash Cans Along a New York City Street, April 1943



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Parks, Gordon, "New York, New York. Street scene showing open trash cans along the curb," April 1943

Description

This photograph shows open trash cans along a street in New York City in April 1943. Picking up litter is part of being a good citizen. If you are walking through a street and you see a bag floating through the air, pick it up and fill it with other trash you find. If you see a full bottle of water on the side of the road, make sure you have gloves on unless the bottle is empty, then pick it up then put it in recycling.

Source-Dependent Questions

- What would a responsible citizen do if they saw trash on the ground?
- What common themes do you find between this photo, the image of the [landfill](#) and the image of the [compost pile](#)?

Citation Information

Parks, Gordon, "New York, New York. Street scene showing open trash cans along the curb," April 1943. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Children Playing Soccer in Washington, D.C., October 1943



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Buble, Esther, "Washington, D.C. Playing soccer in a physical education class at Woodrow Wilson High School," October 1943

Description

This photograph shows girls playing soccer in October 1943. Participating on a team - like these girls are - requires teamwork, working together and playing by the rules.

Source-Dependent Questions

- What evidence of responsibility do you notice in the picture?
- When you play on a team, how do you show responsibility?

Citation Information

Buble, Esther, "Washington, D.C. Playing soccer in a physical education class at Woodrow Wilson High School," October 1943. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Woman Walking Across Crosswalk in Harlem, New York, 2008



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Vergara, Camilo J., "Frederick Douglass at W. 125th St., Harlem," 2008

Description

This photograph shows people crossing the street at this crosswalk in Harlem, New York. The photo features a woman in a bright red coat with matching hat walking across the street in 2008.

Source-Dependent Questions

- What evidence do you see that people are being responsible?
- What evidence do you see that people are not being responsible?.

Citation Information

Vergara, Camilo J., "Frederick Douglass at W. 125th St., Harlem," 2008. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Compost Pile, August 6, 2014



Courtesy of Pixabay, Zimmer, Manfred A., 6 August 2014

Description

This photograph shows a large compost pile in 2014. Responsible citizens make composting areas. Composting is a process to create clean, rich soil that will grow just about anything. Composting helps reduce garbage in the landfill and makes rich soil for planting.

Source-Dependent Questions

- How does making a compost pile help us be responsible for the Earth?
- Why is it important to be responsible to the Earth?
- How is composting more responsible than [throwing away trash](#)?

Citation Information

Zimmer, Manfred A., 6 August 2014. Courtesy of Pixabay

Truck Dumping Trash at a Landfill, Date Unknown



Courtesy of Pixabay, Date Unknown

Description

A landfill is a place to dispose of garbage and other waste material. This photograph shows a dumptruck depositing trash in a landfill. The trash is then buried by covering it with soil. We need to be responsible citizens by reducing what we throw away in the garbage.

Source-Dependent Questions

- When you compare the photos of the [compost pile](#) to the landfill, which shows evidence of responsibility?
- How can we be responsible citizens when we need to get rid of things?
- How can we make responsible decisions, so we do not throw so much away?

Citation Information

Date Unknown, Courtesy of Pixabay

Landscapes of Iowa, Various Dates



Courtesy of Library of Congress

Description

Iowa has many environmental characteristics and landscapes across the state. Rural areas include farms where corn and soybeans may be grown and animals such as cow, pigs or chickens are raised. There also are wind farms where Iowa is a leading state in creating electricity through wind power. Iowa also has towns and cities varying in size with nature and man-made landmarks and attractions.

Source-Dependent Questions

- What environmental characteristics make up Iowa's geographic areas?
- How are the geographic areas of Iowa similar and different?
- In what ways should we be respectful of the Iowa landscape?

Citation Information

Photo 1: Highsmith, Carol M., "Wind farms filled with giant wind turbines have become a familiar site on actual American prairie farms, including this one in Franklin County, Iowa," 17 August 2016. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Photo 2: Highsmith, Carol M., "The Spirit of Dubuque paddlewheel steamboat, moored in Dubuque Harbor, an inlet of the Mississippi River city of Dubuque, Iowa," 16 August 2016. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Photo 3: Lee, Russell, "Former bank building in Milford, Iowa. Now a cafe," December 1936. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Photo 4: Highsmith, Carol M., "Farm scene near the town of Sherrill in Dubuque County, Iowa," 16 August 2016. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Photo 5: Highsmith, Carol M., "Capitol building, Des Moines, Iowa," between 1980 and 2006. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Girl Scout Garden in Washington, D.C., between 1917 and 1919



Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Food Admin., Girl Scout garden, 13th & Iowa Ave., Wash., D.C.," between 1917 and 1918

Description

This photograph shows a girl scout troop that is planting, watering and weeding a community garden in Washington, D.C.

Source-Dependent Questions

- How are the Girl Scouts being respectful?
- Compare this photo to the [photo of the community garden](#). What are the people in both of these photos doing to be respectful of the earth?

Citation Information

"Food Admin., Girl Scout garden, 13th & Iowa Ave., Wash., D.C.," between 1917 and 1918. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Garbage in the Road in Brawley, California, June 1935



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Lange, Dorothea, "Garbage disposal. Brawley, Imperial Valley, California," June 1935

Description

This photograph shows an overflowing garbage container in Brawley, California, in June 1935. Everyone wants to live and visit places that are fresh, clean and healthy. Because overflowing garbage can easily create a danger to anyone who comes into contact with it, or even passes by, it is essential that garbage is always disposed of properly.

Source-Dependent Questions

- What should a respectful citizen do with their trash?
- How could respectful citizens reduce the amount of trash they throw away?

Citation Information

Lange, Dorothea, "Garbage disposal. Brawley, Imperial Valley, California," June 1935. Courtesy of Library of Congress

American Legion in Fourth of July Parade in Watertown, Wisconsin, July 4, 1941



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Vachon, John, "[Untitled photo, possibly related to: American Legion in Fourth of July parade, Watertown, Wisconsin]," 4 July 1941

Description

This photograph shows members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were present at the Fourth of July parade in Watertown, Wisconsin. The photo was taken on July 4, 1941.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Why would veterans and military personnel be in the Fourth of July parade?
- How should we show respect to veterans and the flag when we are at a parade?

Citation Information

Vachon, John, "[Untitled photo, possibly related to: American Legion in Fourth of July parade, Watertown, Wisconsin]," 4 July 1941. Courtesy of Library of Congress

First-Graders Saluting the Flag at a Public School in New York, October 1942



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Collins, Marjory, "New York, New York. First graders in public school saluting the flag. Marie Winn [or Wynn], a Czech-American child is in the center," October 1942

Description

This photograph shows first-grade students at a public school in New York saluting the American flag in October 1942. The U.S. flag is a symbol of freedom and it is typical to stand up and put your right hand over your heart when you say the Pledge of Allegiance or sing the Star Spangled Banner. Americans also typically stand when the American flag is raised and lowered.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Why are we respectful to the flag of the United States?
- What are ways you can be respectful to the flag?

Citation Information

Collins, Marjory, "New York, New York. First graders in public school saluting the flag. Marie Winn [or Wynn], a Czech-American child is in the center," October 1942. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Girls Working Together at School, December 12, 2015



Courtesy of Pixabay, 12 December 2015

Description

This photograph shows two young girls working on school work together. Respect is a way of treating or thinking about something or someone. The students in this image are showing respect as they work on their project together.

Source-Dependent Questions

- How are these girls being respectful at school?
- What evidence of collaboration do you see in this photo?

Citation Information

12 December 2015. Courtesy of Pixabay

Newspaper Article about the Iowa Hawkeyes' Wave of Support, September 5, 2017

Tue., September 05, 2017
A new tradition? Iowa Hawkeyes fans give wave of support to childrens hospital patients after first quarter

Mom: 'I've got to tell you, it was really something!'



Fans in the stands wave to patients at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital after the first quarter of Saturday's Iowa Hawkeyes game at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City. (Stephen Maly/The Gazette)

IOWA CITY — Battling a lung infection following a serious case of pneumonia, 8-year-old Zack Poe, on Saturday, really wasn't feeling well. He was in the hospital, for starters, on a first home football game for the Hawkeyes.

But his family took him anyway to the 12th floor in the new University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, which towers over Kinnick Stadium, and they joined dozens of other

Courtesy of The Cedar Rapids Gazette, Miller, Vanessa, "A new tradition? Iowa Hawkeyes fans give wave of support to children's hospital patients after first quarter," The Cedar Rapids Gazette, 5 September 2017

Description

This newspaper article from The Cedar Rapids Gazette looks at the origin of the Iowa Hawkeye fan wave to patients at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. The article focused on 8-year-old Zack Poe, who was battling a lung infection following a serious case of pneumonia. His family took him to the 12th floor of the hospital, which towers over Kinnick Stadium, and they joined dozens of other pediatric patients and families for a "press box" view of the first home football game of the season. And at the end of the first quarter, 68,000-plus fans turned and waved at the patients. This has since become a tradition with the University of Iowa athletics.

[Full Transcript of Newspaper Article about the Iowa Hawkeyes' Wave of Support](#)

[Transcribed Excerpt from the Newspaper Article about the Iowa Hawkeyes' Wave of Support](#)

Source-Dependent Questions

- How do Iowans show they are respectful to patients at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital?
- Why is a simple wave such a big deal to Zack Poe?

Citation Information

Miller, Vanessa, "A new tradition? Iowa Hawkeyes fans give wave of support to children's hospital patients after first quarter," *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*, 5 September 2017. Courtesy of The Cedar Rapids Gazette

Community Garden in Pella, Iowa, July 2015



Courtesy of Rebecca Helland, July 2015

Description

This photograph shows children and adults working in a community garden in Pella, Iowa. Community gardens can improve nutrition, physical activity, community engagement, safety and economic vitality for a neighborhood and its residents and provide environmental benefits to the community at large.

Source-Dependent Questions

- How are community gardens helpful and respectful for people?
- How is it helpful to have both kids and adults working in the community garden?
- Compare this photo to the photo of the [Girl Scouts gardening](#). What is the same? What is different?

Citation Information

July 2015. Courtesy of Rebecca Helland

Boy Riding Bicycle with Dogs on Leashes, 1928



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Harris & Ewing, “[Boy riding bicycle with dogs on leashes],” 1928

Description

This photograph shows a young boy riding his bike and holding onto two leashes of dogs in 1928. Iowa does not have a state-wide leash law. Dogs who are running at-large and are not wearing valid rabies vaccination tags will be impounded by a local board of health or law enforcement official. In contrast, every county and city in California has a leash law. In Placer County, California, the law requires that if a dog is off its owner’s property, the dog must be on a leash or in a fence or pen.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Why would some place have leash laws for pets and others not?
- Do you think a leash law for pets is needed in Iowa. Why or why not?

Citation Information

Harris & Ewing, “[Boy riding bicycle with dogs on leashes],” 1928. Courtesy of Library of Congress

People Walking on a Dirt Road in Mozambique, March 14, 2010



Courtesy of Pixabay, 14 March 2010

Description

This photograph from March 14, 2010, shows people walking a dirt road in Mozambique, Africa.

Source-Dependent Questions

- What do you notice about roads and travel when comparing this road in Mozambique to the [crosswalk in New York](#)?
- How are the roads in this photo similar to the roads you use? How are they different?

Citation Information

14 March 2010. Courtesy of Pixabay

Crosswalk in New York, 2012



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Bieretz, Renee, "Deck of West 232nd Street overpass, showing wide W beam collision barrier, double-faced wooden guardrail, pedestrian fencing in front of parapet..." 2012

Description

This photograph shows a traffic light and crosswalk in New York City in 2012. In Iowa, it is a law to cross the street at the crosswalk.

Source-Dependent Questions

- How is crossing the street/road the same or different in the United States and [Mozambique, Africa](#)?
- Why would the laws be different in these two places?

Citation Information

Bieretz, Renee, "Deck of West 232nd Street overpass, showing wide W beam collision barrier, double-faced wooden guardrail, pedestrian fencing in front of parapet, pedestrian ramp, crosswalk, traffic light, and oversized signage, looking southeast. - Henry Hudson Parkway, Extending 11.2 miles from West 72nd Street to Bronx-Westchester border, New York County, NY," 2012. Courtesy of Library of Congress

Display from Dublin Bottling Works in Dublin, Texas, September 5, 2014



Courtesy of Library of Congress, Highsmith, Carol M., "Display of company sodas on the bottling line at the Dublin Bottling Works and W.P. Kloster Museum in Dublin, Texas," 5 September 2014

Description

This photograph shows a display of company sodas on the bottling line at the Dublin Bottling Works and W.P. Kloster Museum in Dublin, Texas. Iowa's Beverage Containers Control Law, also known as the "Bottle Bill," helps reduce and clean up litter by recovering beverage containers for recycling. Customers pay a five-cent deposit when purchasing a beverage container and receive a five-cent refund when returning the container to a store or redemption center. The high level of participation by Iowa's businesses and Iowa consumers is the key to the program's success. An estimated 71 percent of beverage containers are redeemed annually in Iowa. The only other states that have bottle/can redemption laws are: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon and Vermont.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Why do you have to pay an extra five cents when you purchase a bottle or can of pop in Iowa?
- How does having this law help us be responsible and respectful?

Citation Information

Highsmith, Carol M., "Display of company sodas on the bottling line at the Dublin Bottling Works and W.P. Kloster Museum in Dublin, Texas," 5 September 2014. Courtesy of Library of Congress

View of a Car Passenger Wearing a Seat Belt, Date Unknown



Courtesy of Pixabay, Date Unknown

Description

This photograph shows a car passenger from behind. The passenger is wearing their seat belt. Seat belts save lives in case of an accident. Nearly every state has strict seatbelt laws: the only one which does not is New Hampshire, where only passengers under 18 are required to buckle up.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Why would Iowa have a law requiring you to wear a seat belt?
- New Hampshire does not have the same law. Do you think the laws should be the same or different? Why?
- Why would New Hampshire not have a seat belt law?

Citation Information

Date Unknown. Courtesy of Pixabay

Infant Asleep in a Car Seat, Date Unknown



Courtesy of Pixabay, Date Unknown

Description

This photograph shows an infant boy asleep in his car seat. All states in the United States have car seat laws. In Iowa, the Child Restraint Law is to keep children safe in a motor vehicle. A child under the age of one and weighing less than 20 lbs. must be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system. A child age one up to six years old must be secured in a child restraint system.

Source-Dependent Questions

- Why do all states have car seat laws for children?
- Why would infants need special car seats?

Citation Information

Date Unknown. Courtesy of Pixabay