

Name:

## Fewer Teens Working

Read the passage below.



Sixteen-year-old Kendra won't be getting a job this summer. Her days will be filled with acting camp and voice lessons. On evenings and weekends, she will be busy with summer homework. Next year, she will take two Advanced Placement classes. She has summer homework for each class - she has to read and annotate two books and write two papers before the first day of school. Kendra is so busy with school and extracurricular activities that she only sleeps four hours each night.

Lots of teens like Kendra feel that they no longer have time for summer or after-school jobs. In 1979, almost 60% of teens had jobs. In 2015, only 34% did. Today, teens may be trying to build their resumes for college by taking summer classes, or participating in extracurricular activities like sports, the school newspaper, or school plays.

But that may be a mistake. Teens may get more out of working than just some extra cash. Teens who have summer or after-school jobs may learn important work skills like how to fill out a job application. They may learn life skills like confidence and independence. They can develop good manners by being polite even to a rude customer. They could also gain insight into what types of careers may be interesting to them.

Teens who work can also help out their families. They contribute money to the family budget. At least, they can take some burden off their parents by buying things for themselves. This may also help teens to learn financial skills. Earning their own money can teach them how to budget and save. They understand the value of money more than if their parents buy them everything they need.

Finally, teens who are busy working have less time to get into trouble!

What are some reasons why some teens do not get jobs?

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What are some reasons why some teens do (or should) get jobs?

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