



Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?

GETTING ORIENTED

The weekly passage discusses curfews. Here is some information that might be helpful to students less familiar with this concept.

Curfew Word Origin

The word *curfew* comes from the French *couvre-feu*. *Couvre* means *cover* and *feu* means *fire*. The word evolved or changed to *curfeu* and then *curfew*. Before electricity, this expression was used at the time of night when all the street lamps and candles were blown out, hence covering the fire. Once the lamps and candles were all out, people went to bed. The word has come to mean the time when young people should be home. It is also used at times when there is danger. Police might instigate or start a curfew if they feel it is dangerous for people to be on the streets. This kind of rule helps law enforcement maintain order.

Curfew laws

State and local governments usually decide curfew law in the United States, but those laws risk being overruled if they violate or go against a variety of Constitutional Amendment rights. These laws are usually designed to keep order and discourage inappropriate behavior. Sometimes the military uses curfews to encourage young soldiers to conform to or follow a certain style of behavior.

Legal Challenges

In recent years there have been many challenges to curfew laws. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has participated in these challenges. ACLU spokespersons always want to protect the rights of people according to the Constitution. Their main complaints regard the vague or unclear wording of the laws and the manner in which they are enforced. They feel that officers often target young people based on race.

Parental Rights

There are laws that protect the rights of teens, but there are also laws that protect the rights of parents. The 1st, 5th, 9th and 14th Amendments all say something about the rights of parents to have custody of their children and to care for them and nurture them within the privacy of their own homes in the manner that they see fit. The wording of these laws has been interpreted in a variety of ways by a various Supreme Court Judges. The laws continue to be challenged when parents or teens feel that their rights are being violated.





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EVIDENCE AND PERSPECTIVES

	<i>Some may have this view:</i>	<i>But others may think:</i>
Teens	Teens who support curfews or parental-escort policies at malls see the advantages of these policies to provide safety for themselves as well as others around them in the mall. They realize that some teens are disrespectful of others and understand that young people need to have parental supervision.	Teens against this idea don't want to be told what to do. They might not have parents who will help them with the rules. They feel like they aren't the ones causing the problems so they shouldn't be punished for the behavior of others.
Parents	The parents who support this idea are happy to have a closer eye on their children. They don't mind taking a turn at being the parent-escort. They may feel that their children are safer if everyone knows there is an adult nearby. They may like the idea of the mall taking the responsibility of setting the curfew. That way they don't have to be the bad guy in their child's eyes. They want the malls to be places that everyone can enjoy.	Some parents feel strongly about personal rights. They feel that teens should have the same rights as everyone else. The teens in the malls don't bother them. They think it is a safe place for young people to be. They don't think of their children as ones who would cause trouble. They may be tired from working all week and not want to be an escort.
Shop Owners	The main interest of shop owners is whether or not their businesses are doing well. They usually support the idea of parental escorts because then more adults will be in the malls browsing around and buying merchandise. Teens will still buy things with the money they have.	Some shop owners have shops that particularly appeal to teens so they want to be sure that there aren't rules that will keep the teens away. They may feel that a curfew or parent-escort rule is not fair to the majority of young people who are polite and want to spend their money.

- The Mall of America in Minneapolis, the nation's largest mall, was one of the first malls to set a curfew for teens. It started its "parent escort policy" in 1996, requiring teens ages 15 and under to have an adult 21 years or older with them after 6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. This move got a lot of negative publicity, but according to Mall Director Maureen Cahill, the teen-related incidents dropped from 300 in 1995 to 2 the next year.
- According to Teenage Research Unlimited, a research firm in Northbrook, IL, 68% of teens spend time at the mall each week, spending an average of three hours per week at the mall.
- Numbering more than 32 million nationwide, shoppers between 12 and 19 years of age spent more than \$170 billion in 2002, which included their own money and their parents', according to Teenage Research Unlimited.

Additional Information for Teachers:

- Read about the percentages of people who support teen curfews
<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2008/08/04/daily25.html?page=all>
- Understand parental rights.
<http://parentalrights.org>
- Investigate curfew laws in other countries.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curfew>
- Learn about the legal challenges to juvenile curfew laws
<http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/curfew-laws/juvenile-curfew-laws-legal-challenges.html>



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ANNOTATIONS FOR TEACHERS

Features of Academic Writing: *Statistics as evidence*

The Common Core State Standards emphasize the need to support claims with evidence. Statistics such as those included in this article are an source of evidence. However, many students may struggle with understanding what these statistics mean and whether or not they can be used to support their claims.

Help students to understand what these statistics actually mean. Then, ask students whether the statistic supports a curfew, supports no curfew, or is neutral.

Ask students if there are other statistics that might be useful to support their position. Use the 'Perspectives and Evidence' resource to examine more statistics.

Gina and her friends just lost their social life. Their local mall **instituted** a 6:00 p.m. curfew for anyone under 16 years old. Before the new curfew, their parents used to drop Gina and her friends off at the mall every Friday night to meet up with classmates and hang out. Now, the teens have to bring an adult guardian.

Forty-six of 1,200 U.S. malls have instituted parental-escort policies.

More malls are likely to **invoke** parental responsibility to monitor teen behavior in malls.

Malls are a common place for teens to hang out after school. Teens like being in the malls because malls provide a fun place to get together with friends from school and to meet students from neighboring schools. Many believe the mall is a safe and well-monitored environment for young people.

Most malls value teens as consumers, because store owners know teens have buying power. **One recent study found that on a typical visit, 68% of teens spent two or more hours in the mall, and more than half of teens surveyed spent \$50 or more during their last visit.**

Also, mall managers realize that teens are their future adult customers and, thus, do not want to discourage teens from coming to the mall.

However, malls were not designed to be babysitters for teenagers. Unfortunately, many malls have been forced to take on

this role. One mall reported that misbehaving teens would hang over the railings, sometimes dropping food or spitting on customers below. At the same mall, two fifteen-year-olds fought over a pair of shoes and one of them was almost pushed over the railing. On another night, two gangs had a scuffle; one gang member had a gun and aimed it at an innocent bystander. **After instituting the parental-escort policy, the Mall of America, the largest mall in the country, reported a decrease from 300 to only 2 incidents involving bad behavior by teens.**

Big groups of teens who yell and fight create discomfort in older customers. Therefore, many older customers began to avoid the mall on Friday and Saturday nights. Since older customers have more money than most teens, mall managers want to encourage them to come back to the mall. **One mall reported a 29% increase in revenue on Friday and Saturday nights after the curfew was instituted.** Thus, the curfew not only makes the mall safer and more comfortable for all of the mall's customers, but it also makes the mall more profitable as well.

Should malls be allowed to institute teen curfews? What do you think?



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GENERATING WORDS

Roots and Prefixes

Remember: prefixes are affixes that come before a word. Sometimes the prefix has more than one meaning.

For example: *in-* as a prefix can mean exactly what we think of when usually see the word *in*
indoors (in a building)
internal (something that is inside)

But sometimes, the prefix *in-* means not.

incorrect (not right)
inactive (something that is not working or being used)

institute
incident
invoke

In three of this week’s focus words, the prefix *in-* is used in the way that we normally use it, like *indoors* or *internal*. However, it is not as clear because the roots – or main words – are not as familiar.

Institute is a verb meaning to set up a policy or rule. Institution is a noun, a place that is set up to promote a particular cause. The Latin *statuere* means to take a stand. In the text, when the mall “instituted a 6:00 p.m. curfew,” the shop owners were setting up a limitation for young people. They were taking a stand on what they thought was important.

Incident is a noun which means a particular event. It often means that an event is in connection with something else. When the mall officials reported “incidents involving bad behavior by teens,” they were reporting particular events that they felt were related to the teens all gathering together for a purpose other than shopping. The Latin *incidere* means to happen, or to fall into.

Invoke is a verb meaning to call forth or to call on for assistance. The Latin *vocare* means to call. Therefore, *invocare* means to call in. In the text the mall administration wants to call in the parents to monitor the behavior of their young people.



Look at the following words and discuss with a partner whether the prefix *-in* means in or not. Write down what you think the word means.

1. indirect

2. ineligible

3. inborn

4. include



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DEVELOPING DISCUSSIONS

Persuasion Balance

There are always good reasons and evidence to support both sides of a controversial issue. If there were not, the issue wouldn't be controversial! But some reasons and evidence will *weigh* more. It is important that we can talk about both sides but we want to argue for the side where the reasons and evidence have more *weight*. This weight will be different for every person because we value different things.

<p>Reasons and Evidence for My Position</p> <p>-----</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>		<p>Reasons and Evidence for the Opposing Position</p> <p>-----</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Academic Conversation:

Explain your persuasion balance to your partner. Why did you think some reasons and evidence had more weight than others? Why did one side weigh more than the other for you? If you are listening, ask your partner to elaborate if you need him or her to be more clear.

Words and Phrases You Might Say

- "I believe that _____."
- "This evidence outweighs _____ because _____."
- "I think this is less important due to _____"
- "While _____ is a good reason, I think that _____ is more convincing because ..."
- "Overall, I think the argument that _____ carries more weight because _____."
- "Some people would argue that _____, but I think _____."