



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 for adults, as well, at times when there is danger. Police might institute 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 want to protect the rights of people according to the Constitution. Their main complaints are about 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 various Supreme Court judges. The laws continue to be challenged when parents or teens feel that their rights are being violated.





Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?

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 are willing to come with them to the mall. 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 and feel that teens should have the same right to shop independently. The teens in the malls don't bother them. They think it is a safe place for young people to be, and they want a safe place for their teens to hang out. They don't think of their children as ones who would cause trouble. They may also 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 curfews because adults, who spend more money, will be more comfortable at the mall. They think 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. |

Additional Information

- 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", requiring teens ages 15 and under to have an adult 21 years or older with them after 6 p.m. on 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 to 2 the next year.
- Numbering more than 25 million nationwide, shoppers between 13 and 19 years of age spend around \$250 billion per year, which included their own money and their parents' money.
- Teen shopping at malls and physical stores, as opposed to online, has been declining for the past decade. Teens are also spending more on food and events than before, rather than on clothing.

Support for Teen Curfews

<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2008/08/04/daily25.html?page=all>

Curfew Laws in Other Countries

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curfew>

Legal Challenges to Juvenile Curfew Laws

<http://public.findlaw.com/civil-rights/curfew-laws/juvenile-curfew-laws-legal-challenges.html>

Teen Spending Survey

<http://www.piperjaffray.com/private/pdf/TSWT%20Infographics.pdf>

Teen Spending Facts

https://teens.lovetoknow.com/Teen_Consumer_Spending_Habits



Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?

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 a 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 highlighted 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 'Evidence and Perspectives' resource to examine more statistics.

Gina and her friends feel like they just lost their social life. Their local mall recently **instituted** a 6:00 p.m. weekend curfew for anyone under 16 years old. Before the 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 in order to stay past the curfew. **Around 50 of 1,200 U.S. malls have instituted policies requiring adult escorts after a certain time.** More malls are likely to **invoke** adult responsibility to monitor teen behavior in malls.

Malls are common places for teens to hang out after school. Many teens like malls because they 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 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. Misbehaving teens at the Mall of America, the largest mall in the country, would hang over the railings, sometimes dropping food or spitting on customers below. At the same mall, two 15-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. **The year after instituting the curfew, the Mall of America reported only two incidents involving bad behavior by teens, as opposed to 300 the year before.**

Big groups of teens who yell and fight create discomfort in older customers. Therefore, many older customers 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.

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



Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?

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. The Latin *statutere* means to take a stand.

Institution, as a noun, is a place set up to promote a particular cause. In the text, when the mall “instituted a 6:00 p.m. curfew,” the mall manager was setting up a limitation for young people. They were taking a stand on what they thought was important.

Incident is a noun that means a particular event. The Latin *incidere* means to happen or to fall into. An incident often refers to an event that is connected to 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.

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.



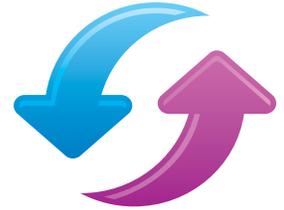
Look at the following words and discuss with a partner whether the prefix *-in* means in or not. Write down what you think the word means.

indirect

ineligible

inborn

include



Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?

DEVELOPING DISCUSSIONS

Persuasion Balance

People on both sides of a controversial issue can always find good reasons and evidence to support their opinions. If that weren't the case, the issue wouldn't be considered controversial. But some reasons and evidence will "weigh" more. In class discussions, we want to be sure to explore both sides. Then we choose to defend the side of the issue that seems to have reasons and evidence that carry more "weight," or significance. This weight will be different for every person because we value different things. This is called a person's **persuasion balance**.

On the lines below, brainstorm reasons and evidence for both sides of the issue: *Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?*

Reasons and Evidence for My Position

1. _____

2. _____

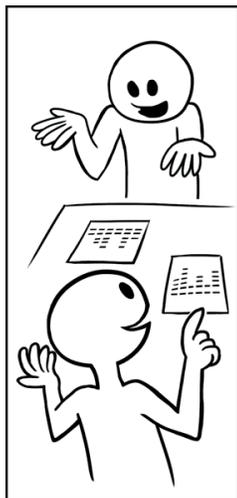
3. _____

Reasons and Evidence for the Opposing Position

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



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? When your partner has a turn, ask your partner to elaborate if you need them to be more clear about their persuasion balance.

Words and Phrases You Might Use

- "I believe that _____."
- "This evidence weighs more for me 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 they should consider _____."