



LAW ★ DAY 2021
ADVANCING THE
RULE OF LAW NOW

Video Activity – The Rule of Law

1. Show this 5-minute video from the U.S. Courts. I suggest using subtitles while playing.

Video: <https://youtu.be/bmAKAHDSnGs>

2. Students can follow along using the 2-page **Student Video Guide**.

3. Summarize what was reviewed in the video. These resources may be helpful to you:

<https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/overview-rule-law>

<https://judiciallearningcenter.org/law-and-the-rule-of-law/>

4. Assign for homework/follow up – **The Rule of Law in Your Life: On the Clock**

STUDENT VIDEO GUIDE: The Rule of Law

U.S. Courts Video - <https://youtu.be/bmAKAHDsnGs>

Jot down one or more of the words/phrases used by the judges at the beginning of the video as they discuss the Rule of Law:

“Your right to swing your fist stops just short of my nose.”

The RULE of LAW defines the boundary between your “_____” and the rights of others. And vice-versa; there is also a boundary between the “___” of others and your rights.

Fill in the blank:

Breakfast sandwich example:

a. How does the Rule of Law relate to crossing the street?

b. How does the Rule of Law relate to paying for the sandwich?

c. How does the Rule of Law relate to eating the food?

What is something else mentioned that we can trust or rely upon because of the Rule of Law?

How does the Rule of Law protect those in the minority from the tyranny of the majority? Use the Freedom of Religion in your explanation.

What is one thing that judges must do?

Part of the Rule of Law means that the written law must be PUBLIC. Why?

Civilizations that emphasize the Rule of Law are more likely to withstand the test of time. Why do you think that is? What do you suppose happens in societies that are not based upon the Rule of Law?

"I firmly believe in the Rule of Law as the foundation for all of our basic rights." – U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

This quote was displayed at the beginning of the video. Do you agree? Would our basic rights be protected if the Rule of Law was not followed?

The Rule of Law **TEACHER GUIDE**

U.S. Courts Video - <https://youtu.be/bmAKAHDsnGs>

Jot down one or more of the words/phrases used by the judges at the beginning of the video as they discuss the Rule of Law:

- Fairness
- Set of Rules
- Everyone needs to abide by....
- Peaceful Interactions
- Social Compact (contract = agreement)
- Everyone is accountable to the law...

“Your right to swing your fist stops just short of my nose.”

The RULE of LAW defines the boundary between your “_____” and the rights of others. And vice-versa; there is also a boundary between the “_____” of others and your rights.

Fill in the blank: **expression, freedom, liberty, and things desired to do, rights**

Breakfast sandwich example:

- a. How does the Rule of Law relate to crossing the street? **Trust that people will stop at the stoplight**
- b. How does the Rule of Law relate to paying for the sandwich? **Trust that the dollar will be accepted, and that the store follows financial regulations and doesn't over charge**
- c. How does the Rule of Law relate to eating the food? **Trust that the store and suppliers follow food safety guidelines**

What is something else mentioned that we can trust or rely upon because of the Rule of Law?

- The dollar will be accepted
- Mail will be safe and private
- The stock market will work
- Speed limits will be enforced
- The laws will be applied to everyone

How does the Rule of Law protect those in the minority from the tyranny of the majority? Use the Freedom of Religion in your explanation.

An individual or a small group of people can't be forced to practice the religion chosen by the majority of people. The law protects everyone's rights in this situation. The majority does NOT rule over the minority when it comes to our inalienable rights.

What is one thing that judges must do?

- Apply the law fairly and evenly to all
- Follow the law
- Follow the Constitution

Part of the Rule of Law means that the written law must be PUBLIC. Why?

- Everybody understands what the law is
- Everybody understands that they will be held to that law
- The government is held to the law
- People know what they're expected to do and you can hold them to it. They are expected to know, generally, what the laws are

Civilizations that emphasize the Rule of Law are more likely to withstand the test of time. Why do you think that is? What do you suppose happens in societies that are not based upon the Rule of Law?

Answers will vary, if people do not trust that their rights will be protected, they will not act to protect the rights of others. Everyone must be held to the law equally or people will not trust it and will not follow it.

"I firmly believe in the Rule of Law as the foundation for all of our basic rights." – U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

This quote was displayed at the beginning of the video. Do you agree? Would our basic rights be protected if the Rule of Law was not followed?

Answers will vary.

Rule of Law in Your Life: On the Clock

1. List your normal daily activities (on a typical day when school is in session). Try to list the activities in the following time slots.

- 6 a.m.

- 9 a.m.

- Noon

- 3 p.m.

- 6 p.m.

- 9 p.m.



2. Now work through some of the highlights of the day, starting when you awake. Explain how the rule of law has an impact on your quality of life in ways you may not have realized. Pick at least **SIX** things from your day and explain how each is impacted by the rule of law in some way.

1. How does the rule of law have an impact on you when you wake up to the sound of your alarm?

2. What happens next?

3. What happens next?

4. What happens next?

5. What happens next?

6. What happens next?