

Respect: Giving It and Earning It



You know you have to respect laws and rules – in traffic, at school and at home. But what if you think the rules aren't fair? You have a local government to turn to for traffic law revisions, a student government to evaluate unfair school rules and a principal who can help resolve unfair classroom rules. But what about at home? If you're in a dangerous or harmful household it's critical to reach out to a trusted adult. Your scout leader, a guidance counselor or a doctor will know what to do.

But what can you do about other things that you just don't feel are fair? Generally, rules are put in place to keep you safe but they can be too strict based on your maturity level. How you handle yourself can go a long way in renegotiating some family rules. But remember, safety will always come first and you have to respect their final decision.

Look at the examples below. Which answer is the best way to participate in a family negotiation?



Your softie Dad is out of town. Mom is tougher. You want to ask about a weekend trip with friends. Should you:

- A Give Dad a call and ask him.
- B Suck it up and ask Mom. You want to know now.
- C Wait until Dad gets back and ask them together.



You have a crappy old cell phone. Your parents never go for phone upgrades. You want to ask for a new phone for your birthday. Should you:

- A Ask anyway. It's your birthday. They should be willing to get it for you.
- B "Lose" your phone the week before.
- C Ask if you can save up to get a new phone and suggest cash toward it would be a nice birthday gift.



You have an early curfew. Your parents are getting tired of arguing about it with you. Should you:

- A Stay out past curfew because it's not fair.
- B Continue to wear them down.
- C Show that you are responsible by never breaking curfew for at least a month before mentioning it again.



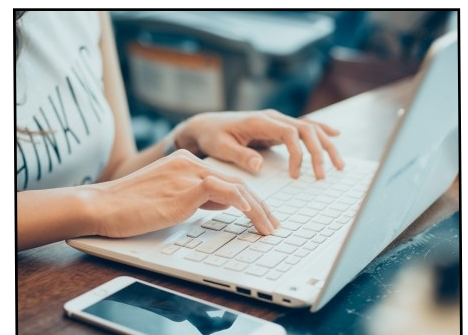
You don't want to take violin lessons anymore but your father thinks you need the discipline. Should you:

- A Stop practicing.
- B Continue to wear them down until they give in.
- C Make a suggestion for a different activity. Be prepared to stick with it.



You want to go to culinary school. Your parents have always assumed you will be attending a four-year university. Should you:

- A You're serious, so announce your choice with confidence.
- B Go the four years and re-examine how you feel.
- C Do your research about careers in the culinary field ask your parents for advice.



Your parents limit your screen time. You think you're old enough to use your time properly. Should you:

- A Just give in, not worth the trouble.
- B Keep asking until they give in.
- C Make your own schedule for a week including screen time and your other activities. Ask your parents to agree to it.