



Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #40 – Rules

Maggie Says...

Today's lesson is about Writing Rules. The adults in my life have lots of rules to follow. Sometimes their rules don't work and they need to rethink and rewrite them. They have some rules about where I can sit when I am in the house. Now that we are in the house more than usual, that is a rule that they are rethinking. I wish I could tell them that I should be able to sit anywhere I want! I think the couch would be a good location for a nap.

Sticky Situation: I know when students return to school there will be some changes in the rules, at least in the beginning. Imagine that the elementary school principals have decided that there needs to be some new rules in the lunchroom. One thing they are considering is to have only one option for lunch each day. The principals think that will allow the lunch line to move more quickly and, therefore, allow them to add extra lunch periods to keep the numbers down in any one lunch. Do you think having only one option for school lunch is a good idea? Why or why not?

There are other important changes that will likely have to be made in the rules in schools. Think about the following and what you would like the rule to be.

What suggestion would you make for a new rule about social distancing when you first return to school? What suggestion would you make for a new rule about wearing masks when you first return to school?

Activity: Rules need to be **clear, concise, easy to understand, and not in conflict with other rules.** Think about the principal's new rule in the scenario below. Do you think it is a good rule? Why or why not? Or, do you think there are too many exceptions to the rule and, therefore, the rule needs to be rewritten?

Your Principal wants to only offer students healthy foods at school. In order to accomplish this, the Principal has decided there should be no sweets or unhealthy treats available to students during the school day and for after-school activities. In order to accomplish this, the Principal has drafted a rule that reads:

Only Healthy Foods Can be Served in School or at School Activities

Read the following possible exceptions to the Principal's rule. Decide which ones you think should be exceptions to the rule. Then decide if you think the Principal's rule is a good rule or if it needs to be rewritten.

1. Your school is having a dance on a Friday night and plans to serve cookies and snacks throughout the event.

