

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #3 – Rules vs. Laws



Maggie says ...

*During the difficult times of the COVID pandemic, several **rules** were put in place to keep people safe and healthy. One rule was that students could no longer attend school in their school buildings – learning had to take place at home. Also, during this time, **laws** were made in our country to keep people safe and healthy. **But what is the difference between a rule and a law?***

Today's lesson asks us to think about RULES vs. LAWS. Rules are very important, and laws are very important. But what makes them different? Who makes rules and who makes laws? I know that I am supposed to be on a leash when I go outside to play on the sidewalks. But is that a rule or a law? Let's find out the difference together.

Sticky Situation: At your school, your principal made a new rule that learning must happen at the home. Now that you are learning at home, your parent or guardian might have put rules in place to help you learn while at home. Rules are behaviors that must be followed in certain places, and they are made to help you can make the right choices for yourself and those around you. Rules are enforced by families, schools, and people in positions of authority. Rules have consequences if they are not followed.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Name one rule in place at your home.

What is the consequence or what happens if you do not follow that rule?

Our Government is making laws to help people during this difficult time with COVID. One of the laws the government is working on seeks to help people who cannot work right now because businesses have closed. Laws are a system of rules created by governments; they are voted on and publicly enforced by police and courts.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What is one law that helps you and your family to stay safe?

What is the consequence, or what happens, if someone breaks that law?

Continued

Activity: This two-part activity is designed to help you better understand the difference between rules and laws.

- PART 1** Have a conversation about the difference between rules and laws.
Focus on who creates a rule versus who creates a law.
- PART 2** Identify which statement below is a rule and which statement is a law.

Circle only one answer.

<i>Use your quiet inside voice</i>	RULE	LAW
<i>Wear your seatbelt in the car</i>	RULE	LAW
<i>Keep your dog on a leash</i>	RULE	LAW
<i>Wash your hands for 30 seconds</i>	RULE	LAW
<i>Do not steal from the store</i>	RULE	LAW
<i>Throw your trash away</i>	RULE	LAW

Civics Resources: Check out this video lesson from Learn Bright about [Laws & Rules for Kids: What is the Difference Between a Rule & Law?](#)