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.

- **Use your quiet inside voice**  
  RULE  
  LAW

- **Wear your seatbelt in the car**  
  RULE  
  LAW

- **Keep your dog on a leash**  
  RULE  
  LAW

- **Wash your hands for 30 seconds**  
  RULE  
  LAW

- **Do not steal from the store**  
  RULE  
  LAW

- **Throw your trash away**  
  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?](https://rendellcenter.org)