

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #9 – Protesting



Maggie says ...

One of the great things about living in America is that the Constitution gives you the right to protest. If you don't like something that the Government is doing, you can say that you don't like it and you can ask the Government to change it – that's called protesting.

Today's lesson is about PROTESTING. When we go to our local dog park, I still have to be on a leash even when we're inside the park because that's the rule that our community dog park. I don't like this rule very much – I think it's okay for dogs to be without a leash when they are inside the dog park. I want to tell my local government officials what I think, and I want to ask them to change the rules. I want to protest this rule! They might not end up changing the rule, but either way, I want to make my voice heard and talk to people about this issue. And, of course, I will be respectful of others in my words and actions.

Sticky Situation: Imagine that the School Board of your district has decided that your school day will start one hour earlier than it does right now. How do you feel about this change? If you don't like this change, what could you do to protest it and make your voice heard? Who might you talk for guidance and support? Your parents? A teacher? The principal? The superintendent? The School Board? In what ways could you protest? What things might you do? What do you think is the best way to get a message across to a lot of people? Finally, what would you do to help people with differing opinions to understand your position on this issue? How would you tell them that it makes you feel?

Activity: Watch a news program on television or go online and search for “*protests*” to learn about and gain a better understanding of demonstrations that have taken place throughout history in our country. Now select just one of those that you identified to research further and uncover – Who is protesting? Why are they protesting? Was society for or against the demonstrators? How did it show this? Did the protests result in any change? When you finish the exercise, share what you have learned with a friend or family member and ask them what they think about protesting, in general, and the demonstration you shared with them.

“We adopt the means of nonviolence because our end is a community at peace with itself. We will try to persuade with our words, but if our words fail, we will try to persuade with our acts.” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Civics Resources: To learn more about different types of protesting, visit:

[TeachRock – Protest as Event \(Lesson\)](#)

[CivicsRenewalNetwork.org – Competing Voices of the Civil Rights Movement](#)