

Rights in Context

Analyze how rights and responsibilities change across settings and statuses.

12.G2e "Rights are not absolute; they vary with legal status, with location (as in schools and workplaces), and with circumstance. The different statuses of United States residency bring with them specific protections, rights..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline protections. Circle age, status, setting, or circumstances that affect which rules apply.

The Setting Matters

- ① Public-school students retain constitutional rights, but school context matters. Under *Tinker*, schools may restrict student expression when they can reasonably forecast material and substantial disruption or an invasion of others' rights. Other rules apply to some categories, including school-sponsored expression. Before a short suspension, students generally receive notice and an opportunity to respond; emergencies may justify immediate removal followed by prompt procedures. Neither "students have no rights" nor "every restriction is forbidden" captures these distinctions.
- ② Citizenship and residency also matter. Lawful permanent residents generally may live and work in the United States, subject to immigration law. Voting in federal elections is reserved to citizens. Noncitizens, including undocumented people within the country, have many constitutional protections, including due process and equal protection; particular rules depend on context. Teen workers have wage and safety protections, while child-labor rules restrict some hours and tasks. Private employers, parents, police, and public schools do not all exercise the same legal authority.
- ③ Imagine a city proposes closing parks to minors after 10 p.m., with specified exceptions. Supporters cite safety; critics question access, evidence, and unequal enforcement. Evaluating the proposal requires identifying the affected people, place, circumstances, and governing law. A policy preference alone cannot resolve legality. Constructive discussion asks whether documented problems support the restriction and whether alternatives could address them with fewer burdens. Legal limits and civic debate both require attention to facts.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the passage show that a student’s speech rights can change in a public school setting?

2 What process generally accompanies a short suspension, and how might an emergency affect timing?

3 Identify one difference between the rights or duties of citizens and lawful permanent residents, and identify one constitutional protection that can apply to noncitizens.

4 For the proposed park rule, what three details should a constructive public speaker identify before weighing the rule’s benefit and burden?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A city proposes barring unaccompanied minors from its recreation center after 8 p.m. In four sentences, identify who and where, weigh access against safety, state your view, and name evidence officials need.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline protections. Circle age, status, setting, or circumstances that affect which rules apply. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage show that a student's speech rights can change in a public school setting?	Schools may restrict expression under Tinker based on a reasonable forecast of substantial disruption or invasion of others' rights; other categories have different rules.
2	What process generally accompanies a short suspension, and how might an emergency affect timing?	Students generally receive notice and an opportunity to respond. Emergencies may justify immediate removal followed by prompt procedures.
3	Identify one difference between the rights or duties of citizens and lawful permanent residents, and identify one constitutional protection that can apply to noncitizens.	Federal law limits voting in federal elections to citizens, while lawful permanent residents may live and work in the United States permanently. Noncitizens can have protections such as due process or equal protection.
4	For the proposed park rule, what three details should a constructive public speaker identify before weighing the rule's benefit and burden?	The speaker should identify the affected group, the location, and the circumstance.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The rule affects unaccompanied minors using a public recreation center after 8 p.m. Officials should weigh young people's access against documented safety concerns. I favor more supervision before a blanket exclusion. Incident reports, attendance patterns, and effects on different groups would help evaluate that approach.

Accept supported positions on either side. Require attention to people, setting, rights or interests, government responsibility, and evidence. Do not assume the same rules govern private and public actors or every school-speech category.