**ENGLISH STUDY WORKSHEET**

**(IV Medio)**

**“Rights and Duties of teenagers”**

**UNIDAD 1**: Teenager’s Rights and Duties

**OBJETIVO DE LA CLASE**: Comprender texto escrito y vocabulario relacionado a los deberes y derechos de la juventud.

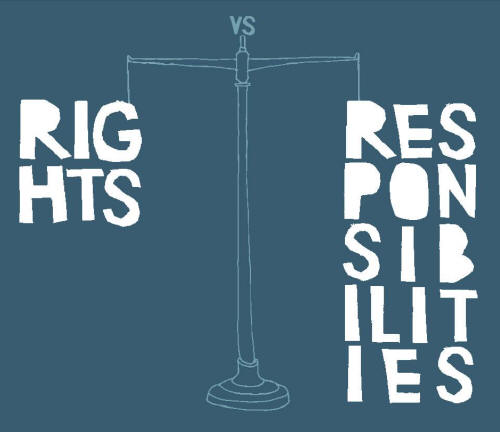
OA 2 / OA 4

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**Mark**:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I. Read the next article related to the rights and responsibilities teenagers have in the United States of America and answer the exercises below.**

***Teenager’s Rights:***



Maybe the most important (and confusing!) thing to think about when you’re planning for your future is your rights. Even though it doesn’t always seem like it, minors (usually people under age 18) have rights just like adults do. Your legal rights are sort of like the **rulebook** that schools, adults, and other teens have to follow whenever they interact with each other. So doesn’t it seem like a good idea to know what’s in that rulebook?

The trouble is that even though there are some legal rights that are the same in every part of the country, most of them change from state to state. For example, did you know that if you live in Nebraska, you don’t become an adult until you turn 19? Or that in some states you can’t legally drive until you’re 17 or 18, but in other states you can drive at 15?

The point is that it’s often hard to know just what your rights really are. Lots of people talk like they know everything there is to know about rights, but that’s usually not true. Because the issue of teen rights is so huge and so confusing, it’s hard to keep track of everything all at once. Even within the same state, you have rights that affect your school, your parents, your job, and so much more!

**Rights in School:**



Since most teens spend a ton of time in school, it makes sense to spend a lot of that time thinking about your rights in school, don’t you think? Well, like everything else, your rights at school depend on a lot of things and change from state to state. That’s why it’s tough to make many general statements about your rights in school. There are some things that cross all state lines, though. Three of them include your right to:

* Get an education
* Privacy and confidentiality
* Specific supports, help, and education if you have a **disability**

**Rights in your House:**



As a teenagers, we have responsibilities in our house but also our own rights. There’s always a lot of confusion about your rights at home. Can your parents legally ground you? Can they be **fined** if you get a speeding ticket? What rights do you have if your parents get divorced? Can parents keep you from getting your nose pierced? Some questions like these are legal issues and some others are questions about your values and your parents’ values. Either way, it’s very important that you talk openly with your parents about your questions and about your rights. It’s the best way to make sure everybody is on the same page. There are some things, we at The **Youthhood** can add, though. Like, did you know that your parents are technically responsible for you until you reach the age of adulthood? That means they actually can be charged money for things you do wrong. Sound crazy? It’s not. And it might not make your parents too happy!

Seriously, though, the age of majority (when you become an adult) is a big issue when it comes to your rights at home. Everybody has a right to control their own bodies, for example. But until you’re an adult, your right to control your body comes after your parents’ wishes. That means that your parents can keep you from getting a tattoo or piercing in most states. You should check your state’s **laws** about this. Your parents also have the right to limit what you say and how you say it. It’s true that you have a right to freedom of speech, but at home, that right is limited by your parents. That means your parents have the right to tell you not to use curse words and as long as their punishments are reasonable, then that’s legal too. The bottom line is that as long as you’re not an adult yet, and as long as your parents are still your primary caretakers, they have the right to limit what you can and can’t do. As always, if you have a question about how far your rights go, you should check with your local state laws.

**Rights at Work:**



There are federal and state restrictions on what teens can do at work. Some of these have to do with what hours of the day you can work and others are about the kind of work you are and are not allowed to do. The main law involved with work issues is the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (some people call it the Wage and Hour Law). This law says when you can and can’t work and also outlines some of the **hazardous** work teens aren’t allowed to do. Under this federal law, people between 14 and 16 can’t work more than 3 hours on a school day and only 18 hours in a school week. If you are between 14 and 16, you can’t work after 7 p.m. during the school year either. This is because people assume that young teens should be focusing most of their time and energy on school, not on earning money.

***Teenager’s Responsibilities:***





***Teenager’s Responsibilities from Parent’s point of view\****

It is easy to view the life of a teen as one of leisure. From the free room and board they enjoy to the sleep-in Saturdays during which they remain tucked warmly in their beds until past noon, teens seem to have it made. For many, the teenage years are relatively plush, but they are not without responsibility. In truth, teens can and should have responsibilities as tending to obligations prepares them to successfully handle the more rigorous roles into which they will step later in life. If you are parenting a teen, place an array of responsibilities on your young adult to help her grow into a prepared and productive citizen.

**Scholarship**

In the eyes of many parents, bringing home good grades is the number one responsibility of a teen. From the hours that teens clock at school each day to after-school homework time, teens have a responsibility to build their brains and mentally prepare for later-in-life success.

**Chores**

Though you likely won’t slide a rent bill under your teen’s bedroom door, you should make her do something to pay you back for the roof you are putting over her head. Your teen has a responsibility to contribute to the household by completing chores. Doing her share of household tasks will teach her responsibility and free up some leisure time for you.

**Employment**

While some teens choose to go job-free though their teen years, taking on a job is a great way to get a taste of the real world. It is wise to make your teen obtain part-time employment. Even if he only works a small number of hours each week, this job will give him the opportunity to dip his toes into the world of work. This will also allow your teen some extra spending money.

**Financial Planning**

What little money your teen earns through whatever job she manages to acquire will provide her the opportunity to practice sound financial decision making. Your teen has a responsibility to manage her own money effectively. This will necessarily include setting up a bank account and perhaps even starting a saving account in which she can sock away cash to cover whatever education costs she may have as she moves past high school.

**Volunteerism**

During teen years, time exists for individuals to give back through volunteering. Help your teen keep his feet firmly planted on the ground and learn more about the real world by making him responsible for volunteering in some shape or form.

**Decision Making**

Your progeny is no longer a child. During his teen years, he must engage in decision making. To allow him to take on this responsibility, you must step back and let him captain his own ship. If you don’t do this, you are denying the opportunity to practice making the right decisions and potentially setting him up for failure later in life.

**Facing Consequences**

During your teen’s childhood you may have shielded her from consequences, protecting her as she wasn’t mature enough to face them. When your child becomes a teen, it is vital that you make her responsible for facing these consequences, suggests Dr. Mario Archer for Down to Earth Enterprises. If your teen messes up, she has the responsibility to pay the piper. If you don’t make her do so, she will never learn.

**Family Time**

Familial relationships are important and should be regularly tended to. Make it a responsibility of your teen to spend time with the family. This time can be in the form of family dinners, arranged game nights or simple evenings at home. When your teen leaves home in just a few short years, you will be glad you kept this responsibility on her list.

**Relationship Building**

It’s never too early to network, suggests Robert Epstein, Ph.D. for Empowering Parents. Break down the walls that exist between your teen and adults, allowing your teen to converse maturely with adults as a means of building her ability to do so. In a few short years, she will be done with school and the relationships she has fostered will serve her well.

**Future Planning**

The perennial question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” is no longer one that your child can dodge. As your teen steps closer to exiting high school, he must start to plan for the future. Effective future planning, including college selection and application, is a must.

**II. Answer the next questions related to the content of the text *“RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEENAGERS”* with the proper information and your own opinion in some cases.**

1. ***Teenager’s Rights***

a) In Nebraska, How many years you must have in order to become an adult?

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b) According to the text, what are the life elements affected by teenager’s rights?

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c) Related to your rights at school, what are the rights you have as a teenager?

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d) Related to your rights in your house, why are you not in charge of yourself?

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e) How many hours can teenagers work?

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1. ***Teenager’s Responsibilities***

a) From parent’s point of view, why is important for teenagers to have responsibilities?

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b) Why is important to create a financial planning responsibility?

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c) How do parents help teenagers to make their decisions?

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d) In which situations teenagers must share family time responsibilities?

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e) What do parents ask to teenagers about their future planning responsibilities?

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**III. Write** your own definitions for the next concepts. (You can use your English-Spanish dictionaries)

1. Employment:

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2. Chores:

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3. Volunteerism:

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4. Rulebook:

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5. Disability:

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6. Youthhood:

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7. Fined:

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8. Hazardous:

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