

EduTrend Contents

W4C · CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Rights Detectives

Apply human rights to real dilemmas

Ages 11–14	Level: Intermediate	60 minutes	Groups of 3 · up to 30	Activity 03

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

Rights Detectives

Students use a simplified version of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to analyse short scenarios, from school phone bans to child labour. They identify the rights involved, decide whether rights are being respected, weigh conflicting rights and propose solutions.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- identify the rights involved in a real situation;
- explain when rights may conflict and how they can be balanced;
- recognise who has a duty to protect rights;
- propose and justify a fair solution.

KEY WORDS

human rights · UNCRC · article · duty bearer · rights holder · conflict · balance · dignity

CURRICULUM LINKS

Citizenship: human rights and the law. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). C3 Framework, Dimension 2: Civics.

1	2	3	4	5	6
NOTICE	**LEARN**	**LISTEN**	**DISCUSS**	**DECIDE**	**ACT**
What is the issue?	Rights and rules	Hear every view	Weigh the evidence	Vote or agree	Make a difference

Materials (per group)

- Simplified summary of UNCRC articles (UNICEF publishes child-friendly versions)
- Six scenario cards
- Rights-balancing scale template
- Highlighters
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Print child-friendly summaries of the Convention.
- Write six short scenarios (for example: a school bans phones; a teenager works long hours; a family cannot access clean water; a school publishes pupils' photos online).
- Prepare a balance scale template for conflicting rights.
- Check scenarios for sensitivity in your community.

SAFETY

Scenarios may connect with students' own lives. Keep them fictional, allow students to pass and signpost support if needed.

ACTIVITY 03 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Push students past “this is unfair” to “which right, whose duty, what solution?”.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Hook	Ask: are there any rights that everyone in the world should have?	*“Who decides what a right is?”*
10–20 min Explore	Groups skim the UNCRC summary and choose three articles that surprise them.	*“Which article matters most to you?”*
20–40 min Investigate	Groups analyse three scenarios with Worksheet 1.	*“Which rights are involved? Who has a duty?”*
40–50 min Balance	Groups use the scale to weigh conflicting rights in one scenario.	*“How can both rights be respected?”*
50–60 min Share	Groups present solutions; class evaluates fairness.	*“Is this solution realistic?”*

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Analyse three real-life scenarios, identify the rights and duties involved, and propose a fair solution where rights conflict.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The citizenship in brief

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, is an international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child. Governments that ratify it have a duty to protect these rights. Children are rights holders; governments, and in many cases adults and organisations, are duty bearers.

Rights can conflict: one person's freedom of expression may clash with another's right to privacy or safety. Balancing rights means finding solutions that respect the core of each right as far as possible, often through rules, safeguards or compromise. Courts and ombudspeople help resolve such conflicts in many countries.

Common ideas to listen for

- "Rights only matter in other countries." Rights apply everywhere, including school and home.
- "Rights can be earned or taken away as a punishment." Human rights belong to everyone; some can be limited by law in specific circumstances.
- "If rights conflict, one must win completely." Balancing often protects both.

Adapting the activity

Support

Provide three scenarios with the relevant articles highlighted.

Stretch

Research how the Convention has been used to change a law or policy in one country.

WORKSHEET 1

Scenario analysis

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Complete one row per scenario.

Analysis

Scenario	Rights involved (article)	Respected?	Who has a duty?
1			
2			
3			

WORKSHEET 2

Balancing rights

Choose a scenario where rights conflict.

The balance

Draw a balance scale with one right on each side and the reasons for each.

Our fair solution

WORKSHEET 3

Reflection

Think like a rights defender.

The right I think is most often ignored and why

One action people my age can take

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Identifies rights and duties	Weighs conflicting rights	Proposes justified solutions

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Rights Detectives is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents W4C Civics & Citizenship programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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