



EduTrend Contents

P4C · RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES · MIDDLE SCHOOL

When Rights Clash

What should happen when one person's right gets in the way of another's?

Ages 11–13

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· 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

When Rights Clash

Students read three invented clashes: a teenager's right to play music versus a neighbour's right to rest; a student's right to say what they think versus a classmate's right not to be humiliated; a family's right to privacy versus a community's right to know about a danger. Groups decide which right should win in each case and why, then the class enquires into general principles.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- identify conflicting rights;
- weigh competing claims;
- propose principles for resolving clashes;
- use examples and counter-examples.

KEY WORDS

clash · priority · harm · freedom · limit · balance

CURRICULUM LINKS

Citizenship: freedom of speech.
PSHE: respect. English: persuasive argument.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree, add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Clash cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 03 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Read the three clash cards.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“What should happen when rights clash?”</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Propose a fair way to settle one clash and defend it against an objection.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Many thinkers argue that freedoms can be limited to prevent harm to others.

Resolving clashes often means balancing rights rather than choosing one completely.

Common ideas to listen for

- “My rights always come first.” Others have rights too.
- “Free speech means saying anything.” It has limits in many places.
- “Clashes have no solutions.” Compromise is often possible.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use one clash only.

Stretch

Write a general rule and test it on all three cases.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Weighing rights

For each clash.

Weighing rights

Clash	Right A	Right B	Which wins? Why
Music			
Speech			
Privacy			

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

**Are some rights more important than others? Before the enquiry I thought...
Now I think... because...**

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

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

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

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

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

When Rights Clash is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Rights and Responsibilities 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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