

Balancing Rights with Responsibilities:

How Do They Work Together?



BIG IDEAS

- › The rights you have are also shared by those around you.
- › You can take responsibility for protecting rights for yourself and others.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- › Suggest actions that support rights.
- › Determine the relationship between rights and responsibilities.



THEME

Balancing Rights with Responsibilities



VOCABULARY

Respect › understanding everyone's inherent right to liberty; showing consideration to other people

Responsibility › a sense of duty or obligation to do something

Right › something you are entitled to do or have, often protected by law



GRADE LEVEL

4-8

TIME

30 minutes

MATERIALS

Balancing Rights with Responsibilities worksheet (attached); pens/pencils

Directions

INTRODUCTION

1. Have students pair up. Give them a couple of minutes to discuss with their partner what a **right** is and what a **responsibility** is. Clarify the definitions as needed:
 - › **Right** = something you are entitled to do or have, often protected by law
 - › **Responsibility** = a sense of duty or obligation to do something
2. Have students make two columns on a sheet of paper, labeling one column 'rights' and the other column 'responsibilities.' Have them brainstorm some rights and some responsibilities they have.



CHARACTER CONNECTION

Students explore the relationship between rights and **responsibility**, including the need to **respect** everyone's rights equally.

Balancing Rights with Responsibilities cont'd.



ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Common Core Language Arts

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4-8.1 ➤

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade level topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

PA Civics and Government

5.2.5.A ➤ Identify individual rights and needs and the rights and needs of others in the classroom, school, community, state, and nation.

NJ Social Studies

6.1.4.A.11 ➤ Explain how the fundamental rights of the individual and the common good of the country depend upon all citizens exercising their civic responsibilities at the community, state, national, and global levels.

BALANCING RIGHTS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES

3. Distribute the *Balancing Rights with Responsibilities* worksheet to students and have them look at the completed example on the first line. Ask for a volunteer to explain what the example means.
4. Clarify that other people have the responsibility to let you speak, and you have the responsibility to let others speak. This is how we ensure that everyone has this right, instead of just one person having this right. In other words, **respecting** each other's rights is our **responsibility**.
5. **Ask students to think of a time when they felt their rights were not respected.** Have them share with their partner, and then have volunteers share with the class.
6. Working in pairs or individually, have students complete the other items on the worksheet. Check for understanding by having students share out or by circulating among students and looking at their papers as they work. Students might come up with different answers, some more specific than others. This is fine, as long as they have the basic idea. For example:

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT: YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| ➤ To be safe | ➤ Not to hurt others |
| ➤ To keep your own things | ➤ Not to harm or take others' things |
| ➤ To move around freely | ➤ Not to stop others from moving freely |

WRAP-UP



7. Have students respond to the following question in pairs or as an exit ticket: **What is one right you want to be more aware of supporting this week?** Check in with students at the end of the week to let them tell you how they did.

Balancing Rights with Responsibilities

Worksheet

NAME _____

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT...

To say what you think

To be safe

To keep your own things

To move around freely



YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY...

To let others say what they think

SO THAT MEANS...

Thinking further:

What are some other rights that you have?

_____What responsibilities support these rights?

_____