**Rights and Responsibilities**

**Rights:**
Those things we are morally or legally entitled to have or to do.

**Responsibilities:**
A duty or obligation.

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**Civil Rights**
Emphasized in the 18th century:
- Equality before the law
- Liberty of person
- Freedom of speech, thought, and religion
- Right to own property

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**Political Rights**
Emphasized in the 19th century:
- Right to participate in elections
- Right to run for and hold office
- Right to vote

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**Social Rights**
Emphasized in the 20th century:
- Right to a certain standard of economic and social well-being
- Right to participate fully in society

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**Democratic Rights**

**Freedom From...**
- Violence
- Exploitation
- Abuse
- Torture
- Poverty
- Hunger
- Lack of health care
- Pollution

**Freedom to...**
- Education
- Practice one’s religion, culture, and language
- Freedom to express opinions
- Be part of associations
- Have access to information

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**The Link:**

**Rights:**
- To protection by the law
- Right to vote
- To drive a car
- To health care and education
- To equality

**Responsibilities:**
- To obey the law
- To stay informed
- To drive safely and obey traffic laws
- To pay taxes
- To not discriminate
Do schools balance the rights and responsibilities of students?

True or False?
The police can arrest you for skipping school?

True: Truancy is a crime.

Do schools balance the rights and responsibilities of students?

True or False?
You do not have to go to school if your parents are teaching you at home?

True

Do schools balance the rights and responsibilities of students?

True or False?
No one is allowed to go through your personal things at home or in your locker.

True: You are protected against unreasonable search and seizure. What unreasonable means is debatable.

Do schools balance the rights and responsibilities of students?

True or False?
You can be punished for expressing your opinions in class if they are not what your teacher believes.

False: everyone has freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, although limits may be placed on this freedom.
Do schools balance the rights and responsibilities of students?

True or False?
Your teacher is allowed to hit you.

True: Teachers are given the same power as parents. School boards, however, will not allow teachers to use this power.

Do schools balance the rights and responsibilities of students?

True or False?
You can protest without fear of being punished if you feel your school is treating you unfairly.

True: As a Canadian citizen, you have freedom of peaceful assembly, but limits may be placed on this freedom.

Analyzing the Issues

Review your school’s current code of conduct.

a) What are your rights under the Code?

b) What are your responsibilities?

c) Do you think there is a fair balance between rights and responsibilities?