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SHOULD SHOPPING MALLS BE ALLOWED TO INSTITUTE TEEN CURFEWS?

Word Generation - Unit 3.23

Focus Words

revenue | institute | incident | escort | invoke

Also search Google for:
“Teen Shopping Survey”

Weekly Passage

Gina and her friends just lost their social life. Their local mall instituted a 6:00 p.m. curfew for anyone under 16 years old. Before the new curfew, their parents used to drop Gina and her friends off at the mall every Friday night to meet up with classmates and hang out. Now, the teens have to bring an adult guardian. Forty-six of 1,200 U.S. malls have instituted parental-escort policies. More malls are likely to invoke parental responsibility to monitor teen behavior in malls.

Malls are a common place for teens to hang out after school. Teens like being in the malls because malls provide a fun place to get together with friends from school and to meet students from neighboring schools. Many believe the mall is a safe and well-monitored environment for young people.

Most malls value teens as consumers, because store owners know teens have buying power. One recent study found that on a typical visit, 68% of teens spent two or more hours in the mall, and more than half of teens surveyed spent \$50 or more during their last visit. Also, mall managers realize that teens are their future adult customers and, thus, do not want to discourage teens from coming to the mall.

However, malls were not designed to be babysitters for teenagers. Unfortunately, many malls have been forced to take on this role. One mall reported that misbehaving teens would hang over the railings, sometimes dropping food or spitting on customers below. At the same mall, two fifteen-year-olds fought over a pair of shoes and one of them was almost pushed over the railing. On another night, two

gangs had a scuffle; one gang member had a gun and aimed it at an innocent bystander. After instituting the parental-escort policy, the Mall of America, the largest mall in the country, reported a decrease from 300 to only 2 incidents involving bad behavior by teens.

Big groups of teens who yell and fight create discomfort in older customers. Therefore, many older customers began to avoid the mall on Friday and Saturday nights. Since older customers have more money than most teens, mall managers want to encourage them to come back to the mall. One mall reported a 29% increase in revenue on Friday and Saturday nights after the curfew was instituted. Thus, the curfew not only makes the mall safer and more comfortable for all of the mall’s customers, but it also makes the mall more profitable as well.

Should malls be allowed to institute teen curfews? What do you think?

TEACHER: Discussion Questions

- ▶ Using the information in the passage, why would parents disagree with a mall’s decision to institute a teen curfew?
- ▶ What sort of incidents cause malls to institute teen curfews?
- ▶ What are the disadvantages of teen curfews for malls?
- ▶ What are the benefits of instituting teen curfews for malls?
- ▶ What is the role of a mall in a community? Babysitter? Business? Public space?



Unit 3.23 - Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?

Focus Word Chart (teacher version)

Word	Meaning	Forms			Related Words
		Inflectional	Basic Word Classes	Prefixes/ Suffixes	
instituted	(v.) - set up	institute (n.) institutes instituting	institute (v.)	institutor institutional institution	statute constitution
escort	(v.) - accompany	escorts (v.) escorts (pl.) escorted escorting			
revenue	(n.) - income	revenues		revenue	venue
incident	(n.) - event, usually occurring in connection with something else	incidents		incidental incidentally	coincide accident incidence
invoke	(v.) - to call forth	invokes invoked invoking		invocation	evoke evocative vocation provocation

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Problem of the Week



Option 1: On February 11, 2010, Hanes Mall in Winston-Salem, North Carolina **instituted** a youth **escort** policy. The policy requires teens to be accompanied by an adult on Fridays and Saturdays after 6 p.m. Mall officials said they were responding to **incidents** involving rowdy, unsupervised teens, and **invoked** their right to keep mall-goers safe. But some mall business owners rely on teens as a welcome source of **revenue** in tough economic times and worry that the new policy will discourage teen customers.

In March 2010, while many business reported losses, popular teen brand Abercrombie & Fitch had an 8% increase in sales. What fraction is equivalent to 8%?

- A) $1/8$
- B) $8/10$
- C) $2/20$
- D) $2/25$

Option 2: Mall business owners worry that teens will cause rowdy or violent **incidents** that will drive away other customers so some owners have **instituted** teen **escort** policies to protect sales. Though teens complain, mall officials **invoke** their right to protect their property. However, teens spending can be an important source of **revenue** for store owners because teens often receive a proportion of their parents' "discretionary income." Discretionary income is the income that is left over once a person pays taxes and buys necessities like food, shelter, clothing, and electricity.

If we let d = discretionary income, g = gross income, t = taxes, and n = necessities, write an equation that shows the relationship between the four variables.

$$\text{Answer: } d = g - t - n \quad \text{OR} \quad d = g - (t + n)$$

Math Discussion Question: When malls **institute** teen **escort** policies, they often **invoke** their right to maximize **revenue** by protecting customers from rowdy teen behavior. However, teens spend money, too. Are teen escort policies really the best strategy for dealing with teen behaviors, or are adults overreacting to isolated **incidents**?

Hanes mall introduces youth escort policy. (2010, February 11). News & Record of Greensboro, North Carolina. Retrieved on May 19, 2010 from http://www.news-record.com/content/2010/02/11/article/hanes_mall_introduces_youth_escort_policy

Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?

Debating the Issue



GO!

1. Get ready...

Pick one of these positions (or create your own).

Be a strong participant by using phrases like these.

A Malls should be allowed to institute teen curfews and guardian policies. Malls are businesses, and mall owners should be able to set policies that will help them make more money.

B Malls should be allowed to institute teen curfews and guardian policies if they have had an incident that makes their customers unsafe.

C Malls should not be allowed to institute teen curfews because teens need a safe place to go. In many towns the mall is the only safe place to go.

D Malls should not be allowed to institute teen curfews. Setting a curfew for all teens is punishing all teens for the bad deeds of a few.

E _____

I think it's more accurate to say...

That's interesting - can you tell why you think that?

I think the evidence is contrary to what you're saying because. . .

Let me share something from the reading that will help us...

2. Get set...

Be ready to provide evidence to back up your position during your class discussion or debate. Jot down a few quick notes:

TEACHER

Whatever debate format you use in your class, ask students to use academically productive talk in arguing their positions. In particular, students should provide reasons and evidence to back up their assertions. It may be helpful to read these sample positions to illustrate some possibilities, but students should also be encouraged to take their own positions on the issue at hand.

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Science Activity



This activity is designed to help you practice thinking like a scientist and to use this week's focus words. Sometimes the data are based on real research, but they should never be considered true or factual.

The bad behavior of teenagers has business owners thinking about how to protect their customers as well as their **revenue**. Shop owners know that calling the police to **escort** unruly teenagers from their stores is not only somewhat extreme, but also just bad for business. Some creative business people decided to **institute** a method other than curfews and calling the police to keep teens from hanging out at their businesses and bothering their customers. This new method is a speaker system that plays an annoying sound called Mosquito Teen Repellent that only people between the ages of 12 and 25 can hear.

People lose the ability to hear very high-pitched sounds as they get older. Therefore, a high-pitched tone at 17.5 and 18.5 kHz can usually only be heard by teens. Most business owners only **invoke** this method as a last resort. The makers of the Mosquito Repellent claim that it reduces **incidents** of vandalism, graffiti, and loitering. Using the Mosquito Teen Repellent for about 20 minutes will annoy loitering teens enough so they will leave.

The writers of Word Generation could not hear the Mosquito tone. Can your class?

Question:

How many _____ and _____ year-olds can hear the Mosquito tone?

Hypothesis:

Most of the students in this science class will be able to hear the Mosquito tone.

Materials:

- ▶ Internet access
- ▶ The Mosquito tone: http://audiocheck.net/audiotests_mosquito.php
- ▶ Your class in a quiet room
- ▶ Computer speakers

Procedure:

1. Count the total number of students in your class.
2. Record this number in your table.
3. Tell the students to close their eyes and put their heads down.
4. Tell the students to raise their hands if and when they hear the noise.
5. Play Mosquito 1 from
http://audiocheck.net/audiotests_mosquito.php
(Make sure your volume is turned up to the maximum level.)
6. Count the number of students who heard the noise.
7. Record this number in your table.
8. Repeat steps 2 through 7 with Mosquito 2 from
http://audiocheck.net/audiotests_mosquito.php

Data:

	Total # of students	# of student who hear	# of student who don't hear
Mosquito 1 tone			
Mosquito 2 tone			

Conclusion:

Is the hypothesis supported or not by the data?

May vary.

What evidence supports your conclusion?

May vary.

How would you make this a better experiment?

Encourage students to consider sample size, number of trials, control of variables, whether the procedure is a true measure of the question, whether the experiment can be repeated by other scientists, data collection and recording systems, and other potential explanations for the outcome. Students should understand that these simple experiments represent the beginning of an exploration, not the end. If time permits, have students suggest how the experiment could be strengthened, emphasizing the use of the target words in the discussion.



Writing Prompt

Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?

Support your position with clear reasons and specific examples. Try to use relevant words from the Word Generation list in your response.

Focus Words

revenue | institute | incident | escort | invoke

TEACHER

Ask students to write a response in which they argue a position on the weekly topic.

Put the writing prompt on the overhead projector (or the board) so that everyone can see it. Remind students to refer to the word lists in their Word Generation notebooks as needed.

A tool to help you think about your own writing!

Remember you can use focus words from any of the WG Units.

Check off what you accomplished:

Good Start

- ☐ Stated my own position
- ☐ Included 1 focus word

Pretty Good

- ☐ Stated my own position clearly
- ☐ Included 1-2 arguments
- ☐ Included 1-2 focus words

Exemplary

- ☐ Stated my own position clearly
- ☐ Included 1-2 arguments
- ☐ Included 1 counterargument
- ☐ Used 2-5 focus words

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