

## **The Most Important Responsibility-Following Laws**

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Turning eighteen is an exciting time for most teenagers. It is the time when we will get to experience life independently for most things. We get to vote, serve on juries, pay taxes, follow laws, and serve our country if we choose. It is our choice. All of these are important responsibilities as citizens and make a difference to our country. However, the responsibility that I think is the most important for keeping our country strong and united is the responsibility of following laws.

In 1956, during a radio and television report, United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "there can be no peace without law". The United States Constitution includes a foundation of laws that makes sure citizens, and the government, have a set of rules to follow. By following these laws, we can live safely, peacefully, and equally. Laws provide us with structure and the consequences of our actions. When laws are broken, people can be hurt, property can be damaged, and lives can be lost. Laws also provide us with protection as citizens through the United States Constitution. We are allowed to vote, to speak, and live life to its fullest. Laws help us understand what is right and what is wrong.

This understanding is very important since many of our communities are diverse. We have people with very different cultures living closely together that need to follow laws for cooperation and understanding within our communities. Even though our cultures may be different, laws bring us together. When people live with set laws, they know what is expected of them, and people can live together without problems.

I have seen how schools and communities can be affected when rules and laws are not followed. Every time it happens, people are forced to take sides causing a division among people. Once the division takes place, people often begin to disagree, argue, or even physically fight. This can make people feel unsafe, unhappy, and sometimes hopeless. People can even lose friends and family.

By following laws, we can make our country a better place. I will take this responsibility very seriously and become the best citizen I can be when I turn eighteen. When we work together and make good decisions, we will see that our country will continue to be a great place to live.

Eisenhower, D. D. (1956, October 31). *Radio and television report to the American people on the developments in Eastern Europe and the Middle East*. The American Presidency Project. <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/233787>