

This week's issue:

SHOULD SHOPPING MALLS BE ALLOWED TO INSTITUTE TEEN CURFEWS?



Gina and her friends feel like they just lost their social life. Their local mall recently **instituted** a 6:00 p.m. weekend curfew for anyone under 16 years old. Before the 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 in order to stay past the curfew. Around 50 of 1,200 U.S. malls have instituted policies requiring adult **escorts** after a certain time. More malls are likely to **invoke** adult responsibility to monitor teen behavior in malls.

Malls are common places for teens to hang out after school. Many teens like malls because they 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 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. Misbehaving teens at the Mall of America, the largest mall in the country, would hang over the railings, sometimes dropping food or spitting on customers below. At the same mall, two 15-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. The year after instituting the curfew, the Mall of America reported only two **incidents** involving bad behavior by teens, as opposed to 300 the year before.

Big groups of teens who yell and fight create discomfort in older customers. Therefore, many older customers 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.

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

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USE THE FOCUS WORDS *and alternate parts of speech

revenue (*noun*) income

➞ **Sample Sentence:** One mall reported a significant increase in **revenue** on Friday and Saturday nights after they began enforcing a curfew.

🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** Why might a country's **revenue** increase while hosting an event like the Olympics or World Cup?

institute (*verb*) to establish

➞ **Sample Sentence:** Their local mall recently **instituted** a 6:00 p.m. curfew for anyone under 16 years old.

🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** How would you feel if your school **instituted** a dress code that excluded jeans and t-shirts?

incident (*noun*) an occurrence or event

➞ **Sample Sentence:** After instituting the curfew, the Mall of America reported a decrease from 300 to only two **incidents** involving bad behavior by teens.

🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** Are there more **incidents** of bullying in elementary school or middle school? Explain.

escort (*noun*) a person who accompanies another person, often offering protection

➞ **Sample Sentence:** Around 50 of 1,200 U.S. malls have adult **escort** policies to reduce the amount of teenage mischief.

🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** Name an activity that requires an adult **escort**.

***escort** (*verb*) to accompany

➞ **Sample Sentence:** Adults age 21 or older must **escort** teenagers after the curfew.

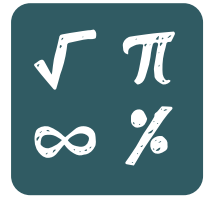
🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** How do you prefer to arrive at school on the first day: alone or **escorted** by friends?

invoke (*verb*) to call on something, such as a law or principle, for support

➞ **Sample Sentence:** More malls are likely to **invoke** adult responsibility to monitor teen behavior.

🗣️ **Turn and Talk:** Describe a time when you **invoked** the mercy of your parents to avoid a punishment.

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DO THE MATH


Option 1: On March 5, 2010, Hanes Mall in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, **instituted** an **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** and worry that the new policy will discourage teen customers.

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

- A. $\frac{1}{8}$
- B. $\frac{8}{10}$
- C. $\frac{2}{20}$
- D. $\frac{2}{25}$

Option 2: Some mall business owners worry that teens will cause rowdy or violent **incidents** that will drive away other customers. They have **instituted** adult **escort** policies to protect sales. Though teens complain, mall officials **invoke** their right to protect their property. However, teen spending can be an important source of **revenue** for store owners because teens often receive a portion 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.

Let d = discretionary income, g = gross income, t = taxes, and n = necessities. Write an equation that shows the relationship between the four variables.

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

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THINK SCIENTIFICALLY

“Ms. Kahn, did you hear about the new adult **escort** policy at the mall?” asked Anthony. “No teens without **escorts** after 5:00 p.m. It’s totally unfair! I think it’s based on a stereotype that all teenagers are troublemakers.”

“Yeah, it stinks for kids who aren’t doing anything wrong,” said Jamal. “But actually, I kind of sympathize with shopkeepers who have to figure out how to protect their businesses and their **revenue**. If some teenagers really are making trouble, the shopkeepers need to **institute** some kind of change to lower the incidence of loitering, fights, rowdiness, and shoplifting so they can stay in business.”

“But teens are customers, too,” said Eva. “Confronting teens and **invoking** rules about when they are and aren’t allowed to be in the mall unsupervised sounds like a lousy way for businesses to relate to their younger customers.”

“I heard about a tricky way some people are trying to push teens away from their shops, without having to have that kind of confrontation,” said Tanya. “It’s kind of creepy and mean, but clever, too. They use high-pitched sounds called mosquito tones that only people under age 25 are supposed to be able to hear. Some call it Mosquito Teen Repellent, because it’s irritating the way a mosquito’s buzzing is, and people who can hear it tend to move away. Businesses can use it at certain scheduled times of day, or they can just switch it on if there’s a particular group of teens who are causing problems.”

The class did an online search and, sure enough, they found sound files for Mosquito Teen Repellent. Most of the students could hear them, but Ms. Kahn and the principal, who had stopped by the classroom, could not. Can you?

Question: How many students in your class can hear the Mosquito Teen Repellent tone?

Hypothesis: Most of the students in this science class will be able to hear the mosquito tones.

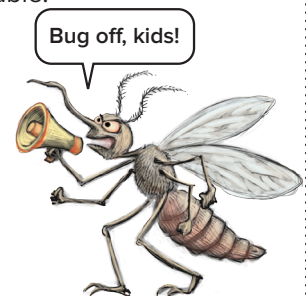
Procedure:

1. Check your audio equipment. Make sure the volume is turned up to the maximum level.
2. Count the total number of students in your class and record this number in the first column of your data table.
3. Have all students close their eyes and put their heads down. Students should raise their hands silently if and when they hear a noise. (Your teacher will either count hands or choose a student to do so.)
4. Play Mosquito Tone 1.
5. Record the number of students who heard the noise in the second column of the data table.
6. Repeat steps 3–5 with Mosquito Tone 2.
7. Calculate the percentage of students who heard each mosquito tone.

Materials:

- Computer speakers
- Mosquito Tones 1 and 2 from http://www.audiocheck.net/audiotests_mosquito.php
- Quiet room

Name of tone	Total number of students	Number of students who hear the tone	Percent of students who hear the tone
Mosquito Tone 1			
Mosquito Tone 2			



- Is the hypothesis supported by the data or not? What evidence supports your conclusion?
- Is everyone in the classroom under age 25? If not, what was the experience of those over age 25 when the mosquito tones were played?

Is the Mosquito tone annoying enough to make you want to leave the room? Do you think it would work in shopping malls and other businesses to keep teens away? What might be some other consequences of repelling people under age 25?

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DEBATE THE ISSUE

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

A

Malls should be allowed to **institute** curfews for teens without a specific reason.

OR

B

Malls should only be allowed to **institute** teen curfews if there is an **incident** that disrupts other shoppers.

OR

C

Malls should not be allowed to **institute** curfews for teens.

OR

CREATE YOUR OWN

jot down a few notes on how to support your position during a discussion or debate.

Be a strong participant by using phrases like these:

““ Can you show me evidence in the text that...””

““ I believe that...””

““ You make a good point, but have you considered...””


““ I agree with you, but...””

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TAKE A STAND

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

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