



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

THE OUTSIDERS

By S.E. Hinton

Authority

- Which characters in the novel used power? Which of them had the right to use power? Which did not? Explain your answer.
- Identify a position of authority described in the story. What is the source of the authority?
- What law(s) are broken when two groups of people take part in a rumble? What benefits result from having such laws? Are there costs? If so, what are they?

Responsibility

- What responsibilities did Darry take on when his parents were killed?
- What might have happened if he had not taken on these responsibilities?
- Why do you think Johnny and Ponyboy decided to turn themselves in?

Justice

- Using the “Intellectual Tool Chart for Issues of Corrective Justice” chart on pages 209–210 of *Foundations of Democracy* (for grades 6–9), analyze Johnny’s action when he killed Bob.
- Do you believe the police were justified in killing Dally? Defend your answer.

Privacy

- As a result of rescuing schoolchildren from the church fire, Ponyboy, Johnny and Dally are hospitalized. Hospital records are confidential. Why do you think it is necessary for hospitals to maintain private records?

We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution

- Connections to text
 1. What role does social and economic inequality play in *The Outsiders*? Consider the title of the novel as you answer.

Project Citizen

- Connections to text
 1. What kinds of public policy issues might be involved in attempting to solve problems created by rival groups like the greasers and Socs?

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Persuasive Writing Prompt

Planning

Before you write,

1. read the prompt carefully so you understand exactly what you are being asked to do;
2. consider topic, task, and audience;
3. think about what you want to write;
4. use scratch paper to organize your thoughts. Use strategies like mapping or outlining.

Persuasive Writing Prompt

When Ponyboy and Johnny run away after Johnny kills Bob, Dally gives them money and a gun. Write to persuade the reader why you believe giving them a gun was or was not a good idea.

Writing

As you write,

- maintain a clear and consistent position or claim;
- include specific details; use examples and reasons to support your ideas;
- use a variety of well-constructed, complete sentences;
- use a logical organization with an obvious introduction, body, and conclusion.

Proofreading

After you write,

- check if you supported your ideas with specific details;
- check if the point of view and tone of the essay remain consistent;
- check for capitalization, spelling, sentence structure, punctuation, and usage errors.