

What are Rights and Responsibilities?

- **Rights** are things you are allowed to do, be, or have. For example, you have the right to go to school. Rights can come from laws, rules, or from things a group agree is important or fair.
- **Responsibilities** are things we are supposed to do. For example, you are responsible for following the laws when riding your bike. Responsibilities can come from personal beliefs, laws, rules, or things that a group agrees on.

How are Rights and Responsibilities Connected?

Having rights means that you get to do certain things. It also means you might have to do other things because you have that right. Your school might give you the right to have your cell phone for emergencies. You might have the responsibility to not distract others with it.

Do I Need to Have Both in My Project?

Yes. You should look for both rights and responsibilities in your project. It's okay if you talk about one more than the other.

For Example: Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

In 1955, a city law said that African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama had to sit in the back of city busses. Separating people like this was called segregation. The city law also said that African Americans had to give up their seat to white riders if the front of the bus was full. Some people disagreed with these kinds of laws. The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution said that all citizens had equal rights.

African Americans in Montgomery felt they had the **responsibility** to get the city law changed. They were fighting for the **rights** of African Americans. Rosa Parks was one of them.

Rosa Parks was arrested when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. A group in Montgomery called the Women's Political Council asked people to boycott the busses. A boycott is when a group of people refuse to buy or do something to try to change things. People walked or rode in carpools organized by community groups instead. The boycott lasted for more than a year. The boycott ended after the United States Supreme Court agreed segregation was unfair.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was part of the start of the civil rights movement. The civil rights movement was a time in United States history when people fought for equal rights and opportunities for African Americans. The Montgomery Bus Boycott was the first large protest in the movement. A protest is when you speak out against something publicly. The boycott showed the impact of non-violent protest. They used peaceful actions to show they wanted change. Reporters visiting Montgomery shared the story across the country. More people learned about the civil rights movement. The boycott inspired other protests for civil **rights**.