

18 IN IDAHO INTRODUCTORY LESSON PLAN

NOTE: This lesson plan has been developed for attorneys to use when teaching high school students. However, this lesson can easily be used by classroom teachers as well.

I. Objectives

As a result of participating in this lesson, students should be able to:

- Discuss what it means to be an adult in the eyes of the law.
- Explain specific laws important for young people to know as they reach the age of majority.

II. Materials

- *18 in Idaho* publication (enough copies for each student to have his/her own)
- Flip chart or whiteboard
- Pen for flip chart or whiteboard
- Scenario cards (optional)

III. Procedure

Time

This lesson (without the added activity) is meant to take approximately 50 minutes to complete. This time may vary slightly depending on the class. Approximate times for each section of the lesson are listed.

Introduction Activity (10 minutes)

- A. Explain that you are going to discuss how the rule of law applies to young people when they turn 18 and reach what is called the age of majority.
- B. Ask the students: What do you think it means to be an adult in the eyes of the law? What are some of the privileges of being an adult? What are some of the responsibilities of being an adult?
- C. Have the students provide answers to the questions. This can be done as either a discussion or you could write down their responses on a whiteboard or flip chart paper.
- D. Once the students have provided their list, go through and either further explain some of their points or fill in any missing points. Make sure most of the following key points are covered:
 - 18 is the age of majority for many laws, but not all. For instance, you can vote and serve jury duty when you are 18, but the drinking age is 21.
 - You are now responsible for your own actions, not your parents. For example, if you crash your car when you are 17, your parents can be held responsible for some of the damages. When you are 18 you are responsible if you are involved in an accident.

- You have more privileges. You can enter into contracts, vote, or serve on a jury.
- You also have more responsibilities. You have to pay your own taxes, pay bills listed in your name, and sign up for selective service (if you are male).
- You are no longer protected by juvenile courts. Situations that might have gotten you a lecture and a ride home in a police car at 17 could land you in jail at 18.

Main Activity (30 Minutes)

- A. Hand out the *Turning 18* magazine.

NOTE: You might want to give the students a minute or two to look through the magazine or you might have difficulty keeping their attention as they look through it during the lesson explanation.

- B. Explain that you are going to assign a student or groups of students to be responsible for different sections of the booklet. Their job is to become experts on their assigned section and then report back to the rest of the class on their section.
- C. Depending on the class size, assign a section to each student, pair of students, or small group of students.

NOTE: Ask the teachers' assistance in grouping students. S/he will know the pairings that will work best in the class. Again depending on your class size, it may not be feasible to cover all topics. Some topics are also longer than others, so it may be best to assign more than one topic to a group. If not, pick and choose from the available sections. Sections include:

- The Law (pages 1 to 3)
- Wheels (pages 3 to 5)
- Money Matters (pages 5 to 7)
- Home (pages 7 and 8)
- Jobs (page 9)
- Recreation (page 10)
- Firearms (page 10 and 11)
- Marriage (page 11)
- Domestic Violence (page 12)
- Sex & the Law (pages 12 and 13)
- Drugs & Alcohol (pages 13 and 14)
- Protecting Yourself (pages 14 to 17)
- Civic Duty (pages 17 and 18)

- D. Once students are in smaller groupings, they must read their assigned section(s) and answer these questions:

1. What are three to five key points in your section(s)?
2. What's the most important point to remember?
3. What did you learn that you didn't know before?
4. What is something you don't agree with or you think is unfair and why?

5. What questions do you still have?
- E. Once students have had time to review their section and answer the questions, have them present their findings to the class as a whole.

NOTE: It might be useful to give the students a time limit of no more than one or two minutes for each of their presentations.

Wrap Up Activity (10 Minutes)

Once you have finished the activity, you might open the floor for any questions the students have about how the law will impact them as they turn 18. They may have specific questions about their own interactions or the interactions of their friends with the legal system.

NOTE: To help make this section more meaningful, you may have the teacher work with the students in advance to prepare any questions they might have.

Extended Activity: You Be the Attorney (15 Minutes)

If you have more time after the main activity, this additional activity can serve as another option to fill the class time.

- A. Give the students one or more of the scenarios on the next two pages.
B. Have the students read the scenario(s).
C. Ask: What laws were broken? What are the possible consequences? If the person in the scenario could rewind, what could s/he do differently?

III. Scenario Cards

The cards included here can be used to stimulate discussion for the *You Be the Attorney* activity. You can also make up your own scenarios based on other sections of the *Turning 18* magazine.

Jess is celebrating his 19th birthday with his friend Parker, who is 21. Jess convinces Parker to buy them a 12-pack of beer. After consuming several of the beers in Jess' apartment, the two of them decide to take a walk to a local pizza place to get something to eat. They put some cans of beer in Jess' backpack and head out. A police officer notices that the two of them are staggering as they walk down the street and pulls them over to investigate the situation. They are afraid to get in trouble, so they refuse to take a breathalyzer test or show their identification. They also start to act belligerent with the police officer.

Anna finds what she thinks will be the perfect first apartment, but it's turned out to be a big nightmare. The apartment is too big and too expensive for her to rent on her own, so, she asks her friend Stephanie to move in with her. Anna and Stephanie sign a one year lease. After several months in the apartment they start having plumbing problems that their landlord refuses to fix and when Anna says she's going to report the landlord he threatens to kick them out. In the meantime, Stephanie has made some new friends and they are always throwing really loud parties at the house and refuse to leave when Stephanie asks them to. About 4 months before the lease is up, Stephanie move out without warning. Since Anna can't afford the place on her own, she moves out too, with 2 months left on the lease.

Kate is driving to work and another driver cuts in front of her in traffic. Kate has to swerve to miss the other driver, which makes her angry. She speeds up to catch the driver and almost hits someone who is crossing the street. She then sends a text message to her best friend to tell her what has just happened. A police officer witnesses Kate's activities and pulls her over. When she approaches the car, the officer notices an empty beer bottle in the back seat. The officer asks Kate to step out of the car so she can administer a DUI test. Since Kate hasn't been drinking, she refuses to take the test.

It's a Friday night, one week before Joe's 18th birthday. His parents have given him an early birthday present of a brand new hunting rifle. Joe and his best friend Henry (who will still be 17 for another two months) decide they want to go out early Saturday morning to try out the new rifle. So, they pack the car with their supplies for the hunting trip, including the new rifle, and then go over to a friend's house to play Xbox. Joe is excited about his new gun, so he brings it into the house to show his friend. He jokingly points the gun at his friend who gets angry and tells Joe and Henry to leave. As they leave, Joe trips and the gun goes off. It doesn't hurt anyone, but a bullet lodges in the living room wall.