

What is a Protest?

Protests are one way for people in a community to express their disapproval with laws or actions around them. Protests can be done when people come together to send a message to government officials or other leaders that actions should be taken to better their community. Currently, there are many protests happening in our country. Everyone has the right to protest peacefully.

Protests can be **lawful** or **unlawful**.

• **Lawful** protesting is when people protest but follow the laws. Lawful protests may include people holding signs, talking with others, making speeches about their beliefs and some people might even be yelling. It is important to stay off private property and stay where the organizers tell protesters to be. Sometimes protests may happen in the road but if the protest is on the road there are often police escorting the protest.



Lawful



Unlawful

• **Unlawful** protesting includes breaking the law and making it unsafe for others. There might be destruction of property, fighting, lighting fires and people carrying weapons. Unlawful protesting can be very dangerous.

If I am going to protest, it is important that I stay safe and follow the law. If I am at a protest that becomes unlawful, I should try to leave the area as quickly as possible.

If I am near somewhere that is having an unlawful protest, I can try to stay away from that area or leave as quickly as possible.

If I do not want to be a part of a protest that is happening:

- I can stay away from the area until the protest is over.
- If I have to go by the protest, I should walk on the outside of the crowd, walk quickly and not talk to anyone.
- If I have to stay at home, I can do fun and relaxing activities around the house such as watching television or play games.

