

## Teens in the USA: Missouri – Cullen – Getting into gear



Lincoln is 14 years old and can't wait to get his drivers permit. He already has a car. In Missouri teenagers are allowed to drive at the age of 15 but only under supervision. What do you think about that? Prepare a discussion in groups. The position every group has to represent is given below.

**“There is nothing for teenagers here in Hermann. I live in the middle of nowhere. I have a lot of hobbies to stay occupied. But I would rather meet some friends, see other places or go to school on my own.”**



### The group positions

#### Position 1 – Teenager:

You take over Cullen's position:  
You want to drive a car on your own to be independent.

#### Position 2 – Police officer:

You represent a police officer who is strictly against teenagers driving without supervision at the age of 15: Driving is too dangerous for teenagers. Young drivers are reckless and cause a lot of accidents.

#### Position 3 – Parents:

You represent parents whose children want to drive on their own. You don't want to supervise them all the time, because it's stressful and your children are limited in spending their free-time. You also want your children to become safe drivers, this is why you suggest practical trainings.

### Procedure fishbowl discussion:

- Prepare your role for the discussion. Select two members of your group to be your first representatives for the inner circle.
- Arrange the chairs in two concentric circles, an inner and an outer circle. The students that participate in the discussion sit in the inner circle. The other group members take a seat in the outer circle. They will observe and evaluate the discussion.
- If you want to join the discussion just tap someone in the inner circle on the shoulder. This can be the case when somebody in the fishbowl runs out of arguments or dominates the discussion.
- If you want to leave the inner circle indicate that to the group by a sign.

### language support

I agree/I disagree with you because... – You may be right but... – I know but... – I see your point but... – I think so, too. – You must be joking! – I strongly believe that... – I'm afraid I don't agree with you there. – I quite agree. – Well, the way I see it... – From my point of view... – In my opinion... – On the one hand I agree but on the other hand I disagree because...

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*Evaluate the discussion. Tick the field which you think applies best to the discussion. Use a different colour for each candidate. After the discussion is over, give a feedback. What went well? What could be improved?*

	☺	☹	☹
<b>Respect for discussion partners</b>	You showed respect for other members of the inner circle throughout the discussion.	You sometimes showed respect for other members of the inner circle.	Everyone has the right to speak freely and to finish his/her statement: Be patient and don't interrupt.
	You paid attention to appropriate turn-taking.	You sometimes paid attention to appropriate turn-taking.	Be fair and give everyone the chance to participate in the discussion.
	You used appropriate language and body language.	You sometimes used appropriate language and body language.	Try to use technical terms or quotations. Calm down, sit straight and hold eye contact.
<b>Information</b>	You presented all information in the discussion in a clear, accurate and thorough way.	You sometimes presented all the information in the discussion in a clear, accurate and thorough way.	Tell the source of your references and information and explain its reliability.
<b>Rebuttal</b>	All counter-arguments were accurate, relevant and strong.	Some of the counter-arguments were accurate, relevant and strong.	Support your counter-arguments by referring to reliable sources.
<b>Argumentation</b>	All arguments were clearly tied to an idea and organized in a logical fashion.	Some of the arguments were clearly tied to an idea and organized in a logical fashion.	Follow the "1-3-Rule": Express 1 idea and support it with 3 arguments.
<b>Understanding of topic</b>	You clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented the information convincingly.	You understood most of the topic in-depth and presented the information mostly convincingly.	Try to get a deeper understanding of the topic by reading summaries or talking to your teacher or experts.