

“Sticky Situation”

Have you heard of *Dear Abby*? If you have, then you know how an advice column works. Someone writes in with a problem. Then, a columnist gives advice. Here, a teenager writes to *Choices* magazine asking for help with a problem, and other teens give their advice.

The Problem

Dear *Choices*:

My mother never lets me go out alone with any of my friends. Every time I want to go out, she gives me an incredibly long and boring speech. When I try to state my totally reasonable case, we end up arguing. I'm 14. I think I'm absolutely mature enough to go out alone with my friends. What should I do?

—Isolated Teen Girl

Five Replies

1 Dear Isolated:

Your mom's probably strict because she loves you. Naturally, she doesn't want you to go out without supervision because she's afraid you'll get hurt. You should definitely follow her directions. Remember that she loves you and that you're the most important person in her life. I know my mom feels that way about me!

—José G., Buena Vista, Virginia

2 Dear Isolated:

You're old enough to go out with your friends! But don't expect your mom to know that unless you show her how responsible you are. Do some laundry, or clean a room, and she'll most likely overcome her worst suspicions.

—Ben A., Green Bay, Wisconsin

3 Dear Isolated:

I had the same trouble with my mom's rules at your age. (I'm 16 now.) Next time your mom gives you “the speech,” say: “Mom, I know what you're saying, but let me explain my side.” Then state your case. Tell your mom where you'll be, how long you'll be out, and who's going to be there. Then she won't be so worried about you.

—Shawna D., Savannah, Georgia

4 Dear Isolated:

Perhaps you can work out some kind of compromise. Invite your friends to your house, and let your mom get acquainted with them. Maybe you'll find some middle ground!

—Maria C.,
West Chester, Ohio

5 Dear Isolated:

I think our moms might be twins. They're both so unfair. You should do what I do. Go out anyway. After all, you are 14! That's obviously old enough to go out alone with your friends. Naturally, I've made some mistakes. But I've learned from them. And so far, I haven't gotten into any trouble.

—Steven E., New York, New York

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Resource Links

 RDI Book 1: p. 392

SAM Keyword: Judgments

Support Judgments

When you read you make judgments that are supported by evidence in the text and your own experiences and values. A judgment is a well-informed opinion about the value or appropriateness of something or someone's actions. Different readers may support their judgments in different ways.

Passage: _____

My judgment based on evidence: 	My judgment based on experience:
<p style="text-align: center;">My Judgment Overall</p> <p>Do I trust this writer's advice? Yes ___ No ___</p> <p>Support:</p> 	

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