How do these photographs illustrate authority?
Power or Authority?

When does someone have the right to tell you what to do?

When do you have the right to tell others what to do?
Who is exercising authority? Why?
Who is using power? Why?
Definitions:

**Power** is the ability to control or direct something or someone. Sometimes people have the right to use power; sometimes they do not.

**Authority** is power combined with the right to use that power. The right to use power usually comes from laws, customs, or principles of morality.
Critical Thinking Exercise

Which situations illustrate the use of authority? Why?
Which situations illustrate the use of power without authority? Why?

1. Police officer Karen Eidman gives Allison Green a ticket for speeding.
2. Jerry Robinson tells Marti Karinsky to stay away from his girlfriend or Jerry will “take care of him”.
4. The government imprisons Juan Rodriguez for refusing to serve in the army during the war because of his belief that it is morally wrong to kill.
5. Arturo Lopez tells his daughter that she will have to stay home all week because she was out past her curfew on Saturday night.
Critical Thinking Exercise

Which situations illustrate the use of authority? Why?
Which situations illustrate the use of power without authority? Why?

6. Bob Jackson, who is bigger than most of his classmates, cuts in front of the cafeteria line.

7. Jane Doe, the owner of an illegal gambling house, tells a customer to pay his debt or prepare for trouble.

8. Two members of a gang shoot and cripple Eddie Kane for revenge.

9. Ali Darwish tells the two girls sitting next to him in the movie theater to move because they are making too much noise.

10. The manager tells Sally Hu that she is not allowed to smoke in the “no smoking” section of the restaurant.
Where can you find authority?

Roles (jobs or positions)
Institutions
Laws and rules
Customs
Principles of morality
Why is it important to know the source of authority?

We need to know the source of people’s authority to determine if they have the right to do what they are doing.

Examining the source of authority for a government, a custom or a moral principle can help us decide whether we ought to obey it.
Why do we need authority?

To protect important rights and freedom.

To ensure that sources and burdens will be distributed fairly.

To manage conflict peacefully and fairly.
How can we evaluate candidates for positions of authority?

Different positions of authority call for different qualifications.
Intellectual tools we can use when deciding if someone is qualified for a particular position:

1. What are the duties, powers, privileges, and limitations of the position?
2. What characteristics should a person have to be selected for the position?
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the persons being considered for the position?
4. Which person would best fill the position?
How can we evaluate rules and laws?

In a democratic system, people we elect to public office have a right to make rules or laws. However, not all the rules and laws are well designed.

A good rule should be...

- fair
- easy to understand
- well designed to achieve its purpose
- clear as to what is expected
- designed so that it does not interfere unnecessarily with other values such as privacy or freedom
- possible to follow
Critical Thinking Exercise

Each of the following hypothetical rules has a problem or weakness. Use the previous list of **characteristics of a good rule** to find the problem.

1. To qualify to vote, a citizen must own at least 10 acres or $10,000 worth of property.

2. No person shall, may, or will unnecessarily, or without cause, fustigate another person’s cranial orb or any other segment of his corporeal being, whatsoever.

3. To promote health and fitness, a new law allows only those citizens weighing 145 pounds or less to vote in presidential elections.

4. Anyone who uses too much water will have to pay a fine.

5. Police and other government officials may search a person’s home whenever they feel like it.

6. All students must eat twenty-eight hamburgers for lunch every day.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>A Good Rule Should be...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The rule discriminates unfairly.</td>
<td>fair, e.g., non-discriminatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>It is unclear what one is forbidden.</td>
<td>clear as to what is expected or required to do.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The rule is unlikely to achieve the purpose which it was designed to achieve. It will not promote physical fitness but instead will prevent people from voting.</td>
<td>well designed to achieve its purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The rule is unclear - the term “too much” is not defined.</td>
<td>clear and easily understood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The rule unnecessarily interferes with an important value (the right to privacy)</td>
<td>designed so that it does not interfere unnecessarily with other values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The rule is not possible to follow</td>
<td>possible to follow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are some consequences of exercising authority?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits might include:</th>
<th>Costs might include:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- security</td>
<td>- misuse of power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- fairness</td>
<td>- need for vigilance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- freedom and other rights</td>
<td>- inflexibility and resistance to change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- efficiency</td>
<td>- inaccessibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- quality of life</td>
<td>- limitations on freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- accountability</td>
<td>- economic costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>- provision of essential services</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reference material:

Center for Civic Education

Foundations of Democracy
High School Level

Authority - Foundations of Democracy
THANK YOU