



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... A CREATIVE WRITING ACTIVITY

Because bylaws deal with issues that are close to home, they impact our lives on a daily basis in many ways.

Imagine it's five in the morning and you are rudely awakened by your neighbour's frantically barking dog. You close your bedroom window and go back to sleep. Later that morning, you hop out of bed, have a shower, and get on your skateboard to meet your friends downtown.

Your day has just started, and already the decisions you have made are affected by the bylaws of the community you live in. The size of your bedroom window is likely determined by a municipal building code. Local bylaws can deal with neighbourhood problems. The water for your shower is likely provided by your local municipality. And traffic bylaws regulate the use of your skateboard.

Your Task

How do bylaws impact your life? Create a short story that shows an understanding of how a particular bylaw could apply to you.

Key ideas to consider as you write this story should include:

- Does this bylaw fall under the jurisdiction of the municipality?
- What is the purpose of this bylaw?
- What are the penalties for violating this bylaw?
- How do you and others feel about this bylaw?
- How does this bylaw enhance the common good of the community?

Your story does not necessarily have to be about a character breaking this law. Other ideas could include having a citizen propose an improvement to an existing bylaw; a citizen who finds themselves unfairly disadvantaged by the bylaw; the story of two neighbours who disagree on the purpose of the bylaw; or an event that brings about the need for a new bylaw.