



The Driver's Seat: Concept Mapping

Responsibility is the difference between being a **passenger** and being the **driver**. When you are the driver, you are in control of the vehicle (your life). When you are a passenger, you are just along for the ride, letting others or your emotions dictate where you go.



Are you in the driver's seat of your own life?

CENTRAL METAPHOR: Being the Driver vs. Being the Passenger

To me, being the 'driver' in high school means...

1. AWARENESS

Definition in your own words:

Real-Life High School Example:



2. CHOICE

Definition in your own words:

Real-Life High School Example:

3. ACCOUNTABILITY

Definition in your own words:

Real-Life High School Example:

4. RESPECT FOR OTHERS

Definition in your own words:

Real-Life High School Example:



Small Group Scenario Analysis

Instructions: In your small groups, read each scenario carefully. Use the 'Responsibility' reading to identify the common excuse the student might use, determine a responsible choice using the **3 Ps (Preparation, Participation, Follow-Through)**, and describe the long-term freedom or trust that would be earned by making that choice.

Scenario 1: The Dead Battery

A student forgot to charge their laptop overnight. They have a major project due today that is saved on that device, and they don't have a charger in their bag.

The Common Excuse	The Responsible Choice (3 Ps)	The Freedom Earned

Scenario 2: The Tough Feedback

A student receives a graded essay with several critical comments and a lower grade than they expected. They feel the teacher was 'being mean' and 'unfair' in their grading.

The Common Excuse	The Responsible Choice (3 Ps)	The Freedom Earned

Scenario 3: The Social Pressure

A student's best friends are planning to skip their last period class to go get food. They are pressuring the student to come along, saying 'it's just one time' and 'the teacher won't care.'

The Common Excuse	The Responsible Choice (3 Ps)	The Freedom Earned



The 3 Ps Daily Audit

Part 1: Self-Assessment Checklist

Evaluate your habits from the last 24 hours. Be honest with yourself—this is a tool for your own growth.

The 3 Ps: Daily Habits	Yes	No
Preparation (Before School)		
I had all necessary materials (laptop, charger, notebooks) ready for class.		
I checked my schedule or assignments to know what to expect today.		
Participation (During School)		
I remained focused and respectful toward my teachers and peers.		
I contributed to class discussions or group work without being prompted.		
Follow-Through (After School)		
I completed my homework or studied for upcoming assessments.		
My choices today moved me closer to my long-term personal goals.		

Part 2: Reflection & Growth

Use your checklist above to answer the following questions.

1. Looking at your audit, which of the 3 Ps (Preparation, Participation, or Follow-Through) is currently your strongest? Why?



2. Think about the 'Common Excuses' from the reading. Which excuse do you find yourself using most often to avoid responsibility?

3. Responsibility leads to freedom. What is one small habit you will start this week to prove you are in 'The Driver's Seat' and earn more independence?



Responsibility & Freedom Connection

The Cause and Effect of Responsibility

Directions: Responsibility is a trade. When you show you can handle a behavior (the Cause), adults grant you more independence (the Effect). For each behavior on the left, identify a specific type of freedom or trust you earn in return.

Responsible Behavior (The Cause)	Freedom or Trust Earned (The Effect)
Meeting a project deadline without being asked or reminded.	
Staying calm and respectful even when you disagree with a teacher's feedback.	
Consistently having your laptop charged and materials ready for class.	
Owning up to a mistake immediately instead of making an excuse.	
Staying focused on your work when your friends are trying to distract you.	

My Responsibility Contract

Identify one area of your life (at home or school) where you want more independence. Then, list the specific responsible actions you will take to prove you are ready for that power.

The Freedom I Want to Earn:

I want to earn the freedom to...



Short Answer Questions

Answer the following short answer questions about the reading.

1. The text states that responsibility is the difference between being a passenger and being the driver. Explain what this metaphor means in the context of a student's life and choices.

2. According to the provided information, why are self-discipline and effort considered more important than natural intelligence for success in school and life?

3. The text outlines four core parts of responsibility: Awareness, Choice, Accountability, and Respect for Others. Describe each of these four parts and explain how they collectively contribute to a student being responsible.



3 Things I Learned...

Instructions: After reading, complete this 3-2-1 chart using all of the vocabulary words.

Key Vocabulary				
self-discipline The ability to control one's feelings and overcome one's weaknesses; the ability to pursue what one thinks is right despite temptations to abandon it.	accountability The fact or condition of being accountable; responsibility for one's actions.	impulse A sudden strong and unreflective urge or desire to act.	metaphor A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.	autonomy The right or condition of self-government; independence.

3 Things I Learned...

From the reading I learned...	Another thing I learned...	One more thing I learned...

2 drawings or pictures to represent what you learned:

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One question you have based on what you learned:

After reading, one question is...