# Fights with Parents

Are you a teenager that has never-ending arguments with your parents? Are you an adult that looks back on your high school years as one full of family conflicts? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions you're not alone. The average teen does have disagreements with their parents or guardians, they're a natural part of maturing to adulthood. There is however an imaginary line that cannot be crossed when dealing with arguments. This "line" varies from person to person, but once crossed the effects of the arguments become hazardous to the teen.

Conflicts at home between parents and their children can have lasting effects on the child. Often times the disagreement is due to personality conflicts between the two sides, mainly because the teen has developed their own attitude and opinions that don't coincide with that of their parents. Also, the child "... may constantly challenge the household rules, seeking in small ways to assert their independence." (Youngs) These changes in the teen also require changes in the parent, which can be surprising and difficult, since teens tend to "test" different types of personalities during adolescence. If the parents and/or teen have a hard time adapting to the "normal" changes in their lives many arguments can emerge. These events, over time, will cause a lasting change in the mind of the teen. Their aggressions towards their parents can be released in negative forms, what is commonly know as teenage rebellion. During this rebellious stage in the teen's life their values and morals can be temporarily frozen. Doing well in school is often the first to be put on ice. The teen's grade point average(GPA) is likely to fall. Since most parents are concerned that their child is successful in school the drop hits home fast. This, in turn, causes even more arguments because the parents want to understand why the child's grades are slipping. And the chain reaction continues.

In order to see if the previously mentioned information was accurate we asked a group of teens their cumulative GPA, and how often they fought with their parents. The results were not surprising. The average GPA of those students who always fight with their parents is 2.83. Of those who sometimes fight with their parents the average GPA is 3.10. Those teens who occasionally argue with their parents have the average GPA of 3.22. The average GPA of teenagers who say they never fight with their parents is 3.17. As predicted earlier, the more frequent the arguments at home, the lower the GPA of the student. But why, then, do those students who never fight with their parents have a lower GPA than those who sometimes fight with them? There are a few reasons that stand out. First, it is possible that the teen rarely sees their parent(s). If the student goes to school all day and works at night, and their parent works at night, they may only see their parent(s) for a limited time on the weekend. So, if there are any conflicts to be discussed, there'd be virtually no time. Since the teen doesn't see their parent they may be overly stressed because they want to, but can't. Another explanation could be that there is a lack of communication between the parents and the teen. Because the lines of communication have been broken the teen can have added stress because they feel it's their duty to mend the lines. One more reason why those teens who never argue with their parents may have lower GPA's is that they don't live with them at all. Because problems at home may have become too tough to handle the teen may have moved to a friends' house for a while, or a relatives' home. The necessary, but temporary, separation will cause additional stress on the teens' already problematic life. So the data concluded that as the frequency of conficts with their parents increased, the GPA of teens decreased.

One-Way Analysis of Variance  
  
  
  
Analysis of Variance  
  
Source DF SS MS F P  
  
Factor 3 4.624 1.541 3.92 0.009  
  
Error 255 100.306 0.393  
  
Total 258 104.929  
  
 Individual 95% CIs For Mean  
  
 Based on Pooled StDev  
  
Level N Mean StDev -----+---------+---------+---------+-  
  
parent-A 39 2.8256 0.7775 (-------\*-------)   
  
parents- 72 3.0999 0.5313 (-----\*-----)   
  
parents- 121 3.2174 0.6080 (----\*---)   
  
parents- 27 3.1696 0.7054 (---------\*--------)   
  
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Pooled StDev = 0.6272 2.75 3.00 3.25 3.50

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