

Sample: Parent-Teen Negotiations

Description: John's road trip with friends	Identify problem and constraints	Solution for teen	The solution from both a child's/adult's perspective	Parent's decision
Financial concerns	I will need gas money and other trip expenses.	Mom and Dad usually pay for my gas and vacation expenses. They will give me money for gas and other expenses.	Expecting Mom and Dad to pay for gas and expenses is a child's perspective; if I were responding as an adult, I'd pay for my own gas and other vacation expenses.	John will choose between 1) financing the road trip himself and 2) not going on the road trip.
Safety concerns	I want to go on this road trip with my friends and without parents.	I am almost 18, which is legally an adult. My parents should trust my decisions. I will be safe.	As a child, I can argue my case. As an adult, I would need to point to actions that show I'm trustworthy and offer an assurance of how my parents can trust me on this trip.	John will submit a written safety plan to show he's thought through each safety concern mentioned in our verbal discussion, such as checkpoints, emergency numbers, car problems, etc.
Personal or emotional concerns	Mom and Dad question my judgment. They think I'll become so excited about what I'm doing that I'll just go along with the crowd.	I won't let others sway my decisions. I have gone on missions trips without my parents, and I was fine.	Since I pointed to my actions to show how I have acted when I was away from my parents and with friends for an extended period of time, I demonstrated that I was thinking through this solution from an adult perspective.	John has gone on missions trips alone. After our discussion, we are no longer concerned with how he would behave with a group of young men that we approve of, in a situation that is far from home.
How will this affect others?	I have a part-time job and work as a student-leader at my youth group. My leaving will affect people at work and at youth group.	I will talk to my supervisor at work to get the time off. I will talk with the youth pastor to see if anyone else can take over my responsibilities with the group when I am gone.	As a child, I would have relied on my parents to help me talk to those affected by my trip. As an adult, I will talk with those affected by my personal vacation.	John will talk to his boss at work to find a replacement; he will talk to his youth pastor to find a replacement, too. If either can't or won't find a replacement, John will not go on this road trip.
Social maturity – character concerns	Mom and Dad are not convinced that I am responsible enough for this road trip.	I am a responsible teen and should be allowed to go on this road trip.	As a child, I can insist that I am responsible. As an adult, I would need to review my chore track record and show I can be responsible for things I've been asked to do.	For one month, John needs to demonstrate his ability to act responsibly without our reminders. To do this, he will run errands for us and take on a few additional chores around the house. If he is able to do this for one month, without any prompts from us, we agree that he is responsible enough for this road trip.

Summary: In order for John to go on this road trip, he will need to do the following:

- Finance the road trip himself.
- Submit a written safety plan that addresses our concerns, such as checkpoints, emergency numbers, car problems, etc.
- Talk to his boss and the youth pastor about finding a replacement. They must be OK with his absence.
- Demonstrate his ability to act responsibly by doing family errands and additional chores, without our reminders during a one-month period.

Negotiated decision:

John has chosen not to go on the trip. He doesn't have the money and doesn't want to let down his youth pastor.

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Safety concerns				
Personal or emotional concerns				
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Summary:

Negotiated decision: