

☐ The police can search a vehicle. A vehicle can be a car, truck, bus, van, or train. However, the police cannot stop any vehicle. They have to have some reason to think that they will find evidence in the vehicles they stop.

☐ There is an emergency. An emergency exists when there is danger here and now, for example, when someone calls the police at five minutes to three o'clock and says a bomb will go off in the building at three o'clock. The police need to search the building for the bomb right away.

☐ If you travel from one country or state to another, you can be searched at the **border**, or edge, of the country or state. This is so the police can stop illegal things from coming into the country or going from state to state. Anyone might be a possible suspect. The bringing of illegal drugs and weapons into this country has become a major challenge to law enforcement agencies.

Airlines are very worried about hijackers. Hijackers are criminals who try to steal airplanes. All airports in the United States search people and luggage for weapons. Always cooperate. Better to be safe than sorry.

What about metal detectors in school? Metal detectors are tools that can search for metal objects such as guns or knives. Schools have the right to use a metal detector to look for weapons to keep schools safe.

You already learned that the law protects you from unreasonable search and seizure. From time to time, the courts add more details or ideas to what this includes. You know about the different rights related to search and seizure at home, at school, in the street, and in your car.

## Being Searched

What should you do if you are searched? Do the right thing. If a police officer should ask to search you, here is what you do.

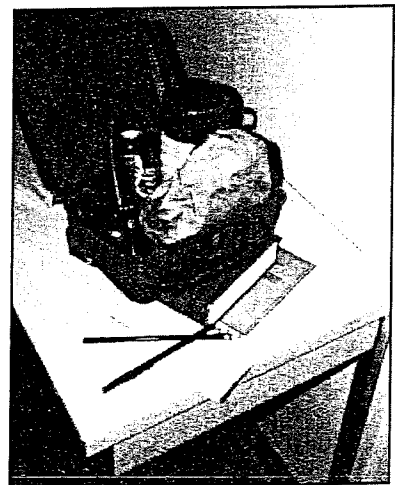
1. Ask if the police have a warrant. If they do, you must open the door. If they do not, they will need to come in anyway to get information that could help their search. Let them do their job. Cooperate.
2. Do not make trouble for the police. Politely tell them that you do not think they have a right to search you. However, do not ever try to stop the search. You could be charged with resisting arrest. You need to work with the law.
3. When you are asked, give the police your full, correct name and address. You do not need to give any other information. Wait until you have a lawyer with you before you answer any questions. The police know that this is your right.
4. Write down the badge numbers of the police officers. Your lawyer may want to talk to the officers later.
5. Check for witnesses. Tell them your name. Ask them to go to the police station to tell what they witnessed—what they saw or heard or remembered.



### CRITICAL THINKING

In 1949, three police officers came into a man's home without a warrant. They were in a hurry. Someone had told them there were illegal drugs there. The police saw two tablets next to the man's bed and asked what they were. But the man quickly grabbed them and swallowed them. In this way, the suspect destroyed the evidence. The police tried to remove them from his mouth. They rushed him to the hospital to have his stomach pumped. The man was finally convicted for having illegal drugs. The Supreme Court said that the search was legal, but the seizure was unreasonable. Can you explain this verdict?

**DID YOU KNOW?** The exclusionary rule was developed by the Supreme Court for federal criminal proceedings in 1914. It was extended to all states in 1961. It means that any evidence seized in violation of the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable search and seizure cannot be counted.



**EYE OPENER** About 2 percent of students were found to have some kind of weapon in school in a recent nationwide study over a 6-month period.



#### CRITICAL THINKING

Violence is considered a public-health problem, much like smallpox was in the last century.

Explain the need for better security in all public places such as airports, libraries, shopping malls, and post offices.

### Search and Seizure in School

You have the right against unreasonable search in school. However, if school officials are looking for a weapon, they can frisk you.

Your locker is school property and can legally be searched. Of course, it is never the right thing to bring anything illegal to school. This means drugs and weapons. Drugs have no place in school because drugs ruin the lives of people who sell them or use them. Weapons can kill—even by accident.

### Finding Something Illegal

If a person brings something illegal to school and it is discovered, school officials will call her parents or guardian. She does not need to talk about what they have found or answer any questions. However, if the police come, she must give them her name and address. Then, if the police want to arrest her, the school official has to stay with her until a parent or guardian arrives.

Search and seizure is a stressful experience for anyone, but being arrested can be more so. Being behind bars is far worse.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Statistics on violence and homicide are usually given as nationwide averages. Yet, these statistics may vary from city to city. Crime rates are higher in cities than in rural areas.



Workbook

Self-Check p. 18

Reality-Check p.19



TO LEARN MORE

*Government Today*, pp. 30-31

### Understanding Chapter 8

1. What is search and seizure?
2. Explain about a type of evidence that cannot be used in court.
3. What rights do school officials have to search you and your property?

1. What does a policeman have to have to stop any vehicle? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When does an emergency exist? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What made the police need to search the building right away? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do police search people at the border? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What has become a major challenge to law enforcement agencies? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who are hijackers? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What are all people and luggage searched for? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What do schools have the right to use to keep schools safe? \_\_\_\_\_
9. There are different rights related to search and seizures at? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. If police have a warrant you must open what? \_\_\_\_\_
11. If they come in without a warrant what should you do? \_\_\_\_\_
12. If you try to stop a search what can you be charged with? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How should you tell them they do not have the right to search you? \_\_\_\_\_
14. When asked what should you give the police about yourself? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. What should you wait for before you answer any other questions? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Why should you write down the badge number of the police officer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. What should you ask witnesses to do? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Why can your locker be searched? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What will school officials do if something illegal is brought to school? \_\_\_\_\_
20. In school if the police come what must a student give to them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Critical Thinking

(pages: 41&42)

1. What is the exclusionary rule?
2. Why do you think students would bring weapons to school?
3. Why does there to be so much and more security at public places such as airports, libraries, shopping malls and post offices?
4. Why are crime rates higher in cities that rural areas?

5. What should you do if you are asked to be searched by a police officer?

6. Do you believe there should be metal detectors in school. Why?

7. If a student brings something illegal to school and it is found in their locker, what should the student do?