

High School Protests

A difficult situation

Legitimate concerns but also trouble-makers



In France, high school students sometimes block school entrances to **protest** against government decisions or changes to the education system. They may have legitimate reasons to protest because they want their voices **to be heard** and their rights to be respected. However, some protesters are **trouble-makers**. They cause **damage**, break windows or fight with the police. These acts of violence can make the situation worse and give a bad image of the protests.

When schools are blocked for several days, students sometimes have to take **online classes** from home.

Distance learning is not always easy.

Emma, 16, high school student:

"I understand why some students want to protest, but I don't think violence is the answer. My school has been blocked for three days, and we have to **study online**. It's difficult to concentrate at home, and sometimes I don't understand the lessons. I also miss talking to my teachers and friends. I'm worried about my exams because I feel I'm falling behind."



Exercise 1 – Reading comprehension

Answer the questions in English.



- 1 Why do some high school students block school entrances?

- 2 What do some trouble-makers do during the protests?

- 3 What happens when schools are blocked for several days?

- 4 Why does Emma find distance learning difficult? Give two reasons.

- 5 What is Emma worried about, and what is your opinion of these protests?



Exercise 2 – Vocabulary



A. Match the English words and expressions with their French translations.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 To protest | a Les cours à distance |
| 2 To be heard | b Étudier en ligne |
| 3 Damage | c Les dégâts |
| 4 Trouble-makers | d Être entendu |
| 5 Online classes | e Les cours en ligne |
| 6 Distance learning | f Manifester / protester |
| 7 To study online | g Les auteurs de troubles |

B. Complete the sentences with the correct English expression.

- 1 Students sometimes block their school to _____ against government decisions.
- 2 Young people want _____ and express their opinions.
- 3 Some _____ break windows and damage school buildings.
- 4 When schools are closed, students sometimes have to take _____ from home.
- 5 It can be difficult to _____ because there are many distractions at home.

Exercise 3 – Give your opinion

Write a short text (6–8 sentences) in English.

Give your opinion about high school protests and online classes. Use the vocabulary from the article and the exercises.



You can mention:

- the reasons for the protests
- the positive and negative aspects
- the trouble-makers and the damage
- your experience or what you would do
- your opinion in the end

Online classes: a challenge!

