



10 REASONS FOR THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments have long served as a moral and legal cornerstone in Western civilization, shaping the principles of justice, liberty, and civic responsibility that sustain our republic. Their display in schools does not impose belief but affirms the moral foundations upon which freedom and law depend.

In 2025, Texas began implementing **Senate Bill 10**, requiring every classroom to display the Ten Commandments—a landmark example of how states can reaffirm moral order and civic virtue in education. Louisiana had already taken bold action in June 2024 with **House Bill 71 (Act 676)**, signed into law by Governor Jeff Landry, mandating framed copies of the Ten Commandments in every public-school classroom, while **Arkansas' Act 573 (SB 433)**, signed by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders in April 2025, requires their display in both public-school classrooms and local government buildings. Together, these measures reflect a rising national movement to restore the Ten Commandments as a visible foundation for civic life, reminding citizens that enduring liberty rests upon enduring moral order.

In that same spirit, this resource presents ten reasons—grounded in history, law, and civic education—why the Ten Commandments belong in America's classrooms once again. It is designed to equip citizens, parents, and community leaders with clear, civic-minded talking points to use when engaging school boards, legislators, and other decision-makers on the enduring moral and educational value of public display.



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1 ESTABLISHING THE MORAL FOUNDATIONS OF LAW

- Posting the Ten Commandments in classrooms encourages students to remember that our legal system rests on enduring moral foundations. It connects what they learn in civics or government to the moral principles—truth-telling, respect for life, and property rights—that shaped Western law.
- For more, see [*Van Orden v. Perry*](#), 545 U.S. 677. (2005), a decision in which the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Ten Commandments monument on Texas State Capitol grounds, noting that the Commandments have “an undeniable historical meaning” and are part of “the legal and moral history of the nation.”

2 CULTIVATING VIRTUE AND CIVIC CHARACTER

- Integrating the Ten Commandments into academic settings reinforces the idea that morality is essential to civic life. By providing students with a visible, enduring reference point for honesty, respect, and personal responsibility, the display strengthens character formation and supports schools’ broader mission to cultivate ethical citizens prepared for self-government and community leadership.
- For more, see Hall, M.D. (2025). [*Ten Commandments Displays in Public Schools*](#). *Regent University*. This piece argues that the Ten Commandments remain a foundational element of Western legal and moral tradition, contending that classroom displays are consistent with modern jurisprudence and civic education.

3 FOSTERING MORAL ORDER AS THE BASIS FOR CIVIC STABILITY

- Displaying the Ten Commandments reminds students that a just and orderly society depends on shared moral commitments, not only on rules or enforcement. Their presence in classrooms underscores that trust, cooperation, and respect for law begin with personal responsibility and moral restraint, principles that sustain freedom and community alike.
- For more, see Frye, D. (2025). [*10 Psychological Lessons From the Ten Commandments*](#). *Psychology Today*. This commentary explains how the Commandments promote moral discipline, empathy, and social cohesion—demonstrating their enduring relevance as a framework for healthy individual behavior and civic responsibility.



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AFFIRMING THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

- Incorporating the Ten Commandments in classroom settings emphasizes the idea that human life carries inherent worth, a truth at the foundation of both moral law and civil liberty. When classrooms visibly affirm this principle, they empower respect for others, discourage dehumanizing behavior, and help cultivate a culture where morality can take root.
- For more, see Adams, J. (1798). **Letter to the Massachusetts Militia, October 11, 1798.** In this foundational document, the Founding Father writes, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” The 10 Commandments helps to bolster this civil objective.

5

GROUNDING CITIZENSHIP IN OBJECTIVE TRUTH

- Acknowledging the Ten Commandments within educational spaces promotes the notion that truth is the keystone of justice, community trust, and responsible citizenship. In a culture often shaped by moral relativism, a visible reminder of this moral standard calls students to value honesty in learning, discourse, and civic life—virtues essential to preserving freedom and justice for all.
- For more, see Cureton, K. **Ten Commandments: Foundation of American Society.** Family Research Council. This resource argues that the Ten Commandments form the moral and philosophical bedrock of the nation’s laws and freedoms, serving as a timeless guide for restoring principle, order, and civic responsibility in American life.

6

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AS SOCIETY’S BEDROCK

- Featuring the Ten Commandments reminds students that strong families are the foundation of a healthy and stable society. When children are taught to respect parents and elders, they learn the principles of authority, accountability, and care for others that sustain communities and civic institutions. Posting these words in classrooms reiterates the connection between family values and public order.
- For more, see Federer, W. J. (2002). **The Ten Commandments & Their Influence on American Law: A Study in History.** Amerisearch, Inc. Federer’s work traces how the Ten Commandments shaped the development of Western legal and moral thought, emphasizing their enduring role in promoting social stability and the moral context of civil law.



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7

ENCOURAGING CHARACTER FORMATION AND LEADERSHIP

- Including the Ten Commandments in public classrooms promotes the notion that personal integrity is indispensable to public life. When students learn that honesty, accountability, and moral consistency sustain trust in leaders, laws, and institutions, they begin to see integrity not only as a private virtue but as a civic responsibility. Such instruction helps schools fulfill their public mission—to cultivate citizens whose character upholds both freedom and good governance.
- For more, see Lindsley, A. (2013). [**Moral Law and the 10 Commandments**](#). This essay explains how the Ten Commandments form the moral and philosophical bedrock of the nation's laws and freedoms.

8

UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

- The Ten Commandments offer lessons on rights and liberty that help students understand that the rights and freedoms they enjoy are grounded in moral duty. The same principles that protect life, liberty, and property also remind citizens that freedom cannot exist apart from responsibility. Posting these enduring moral laws connects students to the ethical roots of human rights and strengthens appreciation for the values that sustain a just society.
- For more, see Eidsmoe, J. (2009). [**The Use of the Ten Commandments in American Courts**](#). *Liberty University Law Review*, 3, 15. In this law review article, Eidsmoe shows that the Ten Commandments have historically informed American legal thought and principles of justice, life, and property—providing credible support for the claim that they undergird modern human rights and justify their display as a civic and educational reminder of moral responsibility.

9

HONORING AMERICA'S MORAL AND SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

- Recognizing the Ten Commandments' enduring influence on morality invites students to acknowledge their enduring influence on moral understanding across faith and culture. Their presence in classrooms can inspire reflection on the moral and spiritual heritage that has shaped human conscience for millennia—encouraging students to consider the deeper sources of virtue, purpose, and moral responsibility that undergird a healthy society.
- For more, see Lindsley, A. [**Why The Ten Commandments Still Belong in Our Society**](#). *Christian Legal Society*. This article examines how the 10 Commandments offer an essential moral framework for justice, freedom, and human dignity—offering a timeless foundation for civic virtue and lawful society that remains relevant in modern public life.



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10 SHAPING CULTURE WITH ENDURING STANDARDS

- Finally, hanging the Ten Commandments in classrooms honors their formative role in shaping the moral and cultural foundations of Western civilization. Far more than symbols of the past, they remind students that enduring standards of right and wrong have guided societies toward justice, creativity, and moral clarity—offering a counterweight to cultural trends that celebrate relativism or moral confusion.
- For more, see Creech, M. (2024). [**The 10 Commandments in American culture.**](#) *Christian Post*. This piece explores how the Commandments are not merely cultural artifacts but enduring moral anchors that have shaped the nation's laws, values, and public conscience.

