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The Big Q

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» The Drinking Age

Monday, Oct. 3, 2011

Best student comment on "The Drinking Age" wins a \$50 gift certificate. Comments must be received by midnight Oct. 9.

David was always a responsible young adult in high school. He worked hard for good grades. He participated in a number of extra curricular activities. He never drank or did drugs. It was his desire to attend a prestigious college that motivated all of this, and he didn't want to do anything that would jeopardize his chance at admittance.

Even still, David's friends would occasionally ask him why he didn't party with them, and he always had the same response: It wasn't a moral abstention, but a legal one. People under the age of 21 aren't allowed to drink, and he didn't want to do something he could wait a few years to experience.

However, now that David's 18-years-old and in college, he finds himself with a different opinion. He no longer has to worry about getting into his university. He finds himself less concerned with the dangers of high school drinking. He gives more consideration to the idea that he can vote and go to war, yet he's not allowed to consume alcohol.

David doesn't intend to do anything dangerous when drinking, just have a couple beers when he goes out with his new friends. He's in a relatively safe environment. He plans to drink responsibly. Is there really a problem?

You may find these resources helpful:

[Drinking Age Pro-Con](#)

[A Framework for Ethical Decision Making](#)

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Posted by Miriam Schulman

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