

# Drone Safety: Activity

## Essential Flight Rules



You learned the core rules for safe drone operation in class today. Now it's time to independently test your knowledge! Remember the basic flight limits established to keep everyone safe on the ground and in the air.



**Instructions:** Read each multiple-choice question carefully and circle the best answer based on what we covered about basic drone laws.

1. What is the maximum altitude a drone is legally allowed to fly under?

- a) 100 feet                      b) 400 feet                      c) 1,000 feet                      d) 500 feet

2. What does it mean to keep your drone within your "visual line of sight"?

- a) Watching it on your phone                      b) Using GPS to track it                      c) Seeing it with your own eyes                      d) Flying it only indoors

3. Why is it a strict rule to NEVER fly a drone over people?

- a) It drains the battery faster                      b) It blocks the Wi-Fi signal                      c) It slows the drone down                      d) It is unsafe and could cause injury

4. Which of the following is the most important thing to check before taking off?

- a) Your camera quality                      b) The weather and airspace rules                      c) Your music playlist                      d) Your social media feed



# The FLY RIGHT Checklist

## Word Bank:

Register | Have a Plan | Trust/Train | Interact | Gain Knowledge  
Match the correct word from the bank to its letter in the acronym. Then, briefly write what that step means in your own words.

| Letter | Term & Meaning |
|--------|----------------|
| 5. R   |                |
| 6. I   |                |
| 7. G   |                |
| 8. H   |                |
| 9. T   |                |

## Real-World Scenarios

Read each scenario below. Use your knowledge of drone safety to explain the safest course of action.

### 10. The Park Crowd

You are flying your drone at an empty local park. Suddenly, a large group of people arrives and starts setting up a picnic right near where you are flying. What should you do, and why?




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### 11. The Nearby Airport

You just got a new drone and want to fly it around your backyard. However, you know that your house is located very close to a local airport. What must you check before flying?

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### 12. The Inexperienced Friend

Your best friend comes over and begs to fly your drone. They have never flown one before, haven't practiced, and don't know the controls. What is the safest action for you to take?

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## Analyzing the Rules

Read the informational passage below, then answer the questions using evidence from the text.

*Drones—formally known as Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)—are more than just toys; they are complex aircraft sharing the sky. As their popularity grows, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established strict rules to maintain order and safety in our airspace. One central rule is the 400-foot altitude limit. This specific height is mandated to ensure a safety buffer, as manned commercial airplanes typically operate above 500 feet. Another crucial regulation is maintaining a "visual line of sight." Pilots must be able to visually track their drone with their own eyes at all times, rather than relying solely on a video feed. While some hobbyists argue that small recreational drones are harmless and should be exempt from restrictions, aviation experts counter that even a two-pound drone can cause catastrophic damage to an airplane engine or injure people on the ground if a motor suddenly fails.*

**13.** What is the **central idea** of this passage? Provide a one-sentence summary without using your personal opinion.

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**14.** Based on the context in the passage, what does the term "**mandated**" mean?

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**15. Cite textual evidence:** Why is the specific altitude limit set at 400 feet? Use exact details from the text in your answer.

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**16. Evaluate the argument:** The author mentions two opposing viewpoints at the end of the paragraph. How do aviation experts respond to the claim made by hobbyists?

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## Reflection & Future Impact

**17. STEM Connection:** Drone technology is rapidly expanding in fields like delivery, photography, and search-and-rescue. Why is understanding drone safety so important for someone who might want a future career in technology or aviation?

**18. Personal Commitment:** Based on everything you've learned, what is **ONE** drone safety rule you personally commit to always following, and why did you choose that specific rule?



## Answer Key

### Essential Flight Rules

- b) 400 feet
- c) Seeing it with your own eyes
- d) It is unsafe and could cause injury
- b) The weather and airspace rules

### The FLY RIGHT Checklist

5. Register 6. Interact 7. Gain Knowledge 8. Have a Plan 9. Trust/Train

### Real-World Scenarios

**Answer:**

You should immediately land the drone or fly it far away from the group. It is a strict rule never to fly drones over people because it is unsafe and could cause serious injury if the drone malfunctions.

**Answer:**

You must check the airspace rules and restrictions. Drones are not allowed to fly near airports without authorization because they could interfere with airplanes.

**Answer:**

Do not let them fly it alone. The safest action is to explain the safety rules first, and perhaps let them use a training simulator, or supervise them closely in a wide open, safe space if permitted.

### Analyzing the Rules

**Answer:**

The central idea is that the FAA has created strict safety rules, such as altitude limits and line of sight requirements, to prevent drones from causing harm in shared airspace.

**Answer:**

Mandated means required, ordered, or made mandatory by a rule or law.

**Answer:**

The limit is 400 feet "to ensure a safety buffer, as manned commercial airplanes typically operate above 500 feet."

**Answer:**

Hobbyists claim small drones are harmless and should be exempt from rules, but aviation experts respond with the evidence that even a small, two-pound drone can cause catastrophic damage to a plane engine or hurt people on the ground.

### Reflection & Future Impact

**Answer:**

Understanding safety is critical because a professional must protect the public, avoid costly accidents, and follow the law. As drones do bigger jobs, the risks increase, so tech professionals must build and operate them with safety as the top priority.

**Answer:**

Answers will vary. Example: I commit to always keeping the drone in my visual line of sight so I don't accidentally crash into a tree or a person I couldn't see on the camera.