

BEST QUOTES ON AUTHORITY

We are not free. It was not intended we should be. A book of rules is placed in our cradle, and we never get rid of it until we reach our graves. Then we are free, and only then.

--Ed Howe

Obedience is the key to every door.

--George Macdonald

Rules are positive tools meant to serve the users.

--Amy Karst

Good laws make it easier to do right and harder to do wrong.

--William E. Gladstone

If authority has no ears to listen, it has no head to govern.

--Danish Proverb

Lawful and settled authority is very seldom resisted when it is well employed.

--Samuel Johnson

The cost of obedience is nothing compared to the cost of disobedience.

—Unknown

Nothing more impairs authority than a too frequent or indiscreet use of it. If thunder itself was to be continual, it would excite no more terror than the noise of a mill.

--A. Kingston

Children can't make their own rules and no child is happy without them. The great need of the young is for authority that protects them against the consequences of their own primitive passions and their lack of experience, that provides them with guides for everyday behavior and that builds some solid ground they can stand on for the future.

--Leontine Young

He that complies against his will,
Is of his own opinion still.

--Samuel Butler

No one knows better than children how much they need the authority that protects, that sets the outer limits of behavior with known and prescribed consequences. As one little boy expressed it to his mother, 'You care what I do.'

--Leontine Young

What causes adolescents to rebel is not the assertion of authority but the arbitrary use of power, with little explanation of the rules and no involvement in decision-making....Involving the adolescent in decisions doesn't mean that you are giving up your authority. It means acknowledging that the teenager is growing up and has the right to participate in decisions that affect his or her life.

--Laurence Steinberg

I think of discipline as the continual everyday process of helping a child learn self-discipline.

--Fred Rogers

Call them rules or call them limits. Good ones, I believe, have this in common: they serve reasonable purposes; they are practical and within a child's capability; they are consistent; and they are an expression of loving concern.

--Fred Rogers

There is no useful rule without an exception.

--Thomas Fuller

The disappearance of a sense of responsibility is the most far-reaching consequence of submission to authority.

—Stanley Milgram

If you cannot reconcile yourself to the law, remain in the cradle.

--Pedro Calderon
de la Barca

Morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. Judicial decrees may not change the heart, but they can restrain the heartless.

--Martin Luther
King, Jr.

No law is quite appropriate for all.

--Livy

High school regulations are chillingly similar to the Army's.

--Ira Glasser

Most law-enforcement officers are trained to assert authority, to take control of the situation. In a school context, that's bad advice.

—Mark Soler

Low-income parents as a group tend toward a firmly directive approach with their children, whereas middle-class parents typically favor a more solicitous tack, encouraging their kids to question adult authority....the different effects on behavior: dutiful respect versus a sense of entitlement.

—Sarah Carr

Always obey your superiors—if you have any.

--Mark Twain

Good laws, if they are not obeyed, do not constitute good government.

--Aristotle

Justice is the insurance which we have on our lives and property. Obedience is the premium which we pay for it.

--William Penn

When authority does not allow children to question everything, the children will question authority.

--Greg Henry Quinn

No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we ask him to obey it.

--Theodore Roosevelt

All authority is quite degrading. It degrades those who exercise it, and degrades those over whom it is exercised. When it is violently, grossly, and cruelly used, it produces a good effect, by creating, or at any rate bringing out, the spirit of revolt and individualism that is to kill it. When it is used with a certain amount of kindness, and accompanied by prizes and rewards, it is dreadfully demoralizing.

--Oscar Wilde

Wherever there is authority, there is a natural inclination to disobedience.

--Thomas Haliburton

We live in an age when carping at authority and denigration of those who carry responsibility is the order of the day. The world is a chillier and uglier place because of it.

--Desmond Heap

One very common error misleads the opinion of mankind, that authority is pleasant, and submission painful. In the general course of human affairs the very reverse of this is nearer to the truth. Command is anxiety; obedience is ease.

—William Paley

Every great person first learned how to obey, whom to obey, and when to obey.

--Unknown

The time to teach obedience to authority is in the playpen instead of the State pen!

—Unknown

Do as you're bidden and you'll never bear blame.

—English Proverb

Society is well governed when the people obey the magistrates, and the magistrates obey the law.

--Solon

Let thy child's first lesson be obedience, and the second will be what thou wilt.

--Benjamin Franklin

The highest duty is to respect authority.

--Pope Leo XIII

Wicked men obey from fear; good men, from love.

--Aristotle

The man who commands efficiently must have obeyed others in the past, and the man who obeys dutifully is worthy of being some day a commander.

--Cicero

Obedience is the mother of success, and the wife of security.

--Aeschylus

The child is surrounded by so much authority, so much school, so much dignity, so much law, that it would have to break down under the weight of all these restraints if it were not saved from such a fate by meeting with a friend.

--Dr. Wilhelm Stekhel

Authority without wisdom is like a heavy ax without an edge, fitter to bruise than polish.

--Anne Bradstreet

Much talk is especially injurious for one in authority.

--Walter Elliott

There's very few men that can bear authority if they haven't been born with the shoulders for it. If you gave a man a nose who never had one, he would be blowing it all day.

--John Oliver Hobbes

One thing that has become clear more than any other in this psychological age is that many of the emotional problems of the adult stem from a childhood inability to establish consistent and, on the whole, good-willed feelings toward those in authority over him.

--Bonaro Overstreet

The weaker a man in authority...the stronger his insistence that all his privileges be acknowledged.

--Austin O'Malley

I don't like authority, at least I don't like other people's authority.

--A. C. Benson

The scars left from the child's defeat in the fight against irrational authority are to be found at the bottom of every neurosis.

--Erich Fromm

New faces

Have more authority than accustomed ones.

--Euripides

Authority is never without hate.

--Euripides

Authority has every reason to fear the skeptic, for authority can rarely survive in the face of doubt.

--Robert Lindner

People who are masters in their own house are never tyrants.

--Napoleon I

We have to hate our immediate predecessors to get free of their authority.

--D. H. Lawrence

The height of ability in the least able consists in knowing how to submit to the good leadership of others.

--La Rochefoucauld

It is right that what is just should be obeyed; it is necessary that what is strongest should be obeyed.

--Blaise Pascal

He who yields a prudent obedience, exercises a partial control.

--Publilius Syrus

The man who obeys is nearly always better than the man who commands.

--Ernest Renan

The man who does something under orders is not unhappy; he is unhappy who does something against his will.

--Seneca

Obedience,
Bane of all genius, virtue, freedom, truth,
Makes slaves of men, and, of the human frame,
A mechanized automaton.

--Percy Bysshe Shelley

Learn to obey before you command.

--Solon

He who has no bread has no authority.

--Turkish Proverb

Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

--Lord Acton

The possession of unlimited power will make a despot of almost any man. There is a possible Nero in the gentlest human creature that walks.

--Thomas Bailey Aldrich

The sole advantage of power is that you can do more good.

--Baltasar Gracián

The first principle of a civilized state is that power is legitimate only when it is under contract.

--Walter Lippmann

Power never takes a back step—only in the face of more power.

--Malcolm X

There is a universal need to exercise some kind of power, or to create for one's self the appearance of some power, if only temporarily, in the form of intoxication.

--Nietzsche

Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.

--Theodore Roosevelt

Is it not clear than the elders must rule, and the young must be ruled?

--Plato

A state cannot be well governed when there are many in authority.

--Homer

There is only one kind of right in this world, and right lies vested in one's own strength.

--Adolf Hitler

Power is the supreme law.

--Adolf Hitler

If you have no power, then having right on your side is useless.

--Adolf Hitler

Obey authority! If that means yield to force, the precept is good but superfluous.
--J. J. Rousseau

The authority of those who profess to teach is often a positive hindrance to those who desire to learn.
--Cicero

He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander.
--Aristotle

If you wish to know what a man is, place him in authority.
--Yugoslav Proverb

Power will intoxicate the best hearts, as wine the strongest heads. No man is wise enough, nor good enough, to be trusted with unlimited power.
--Charles Caleb Colton

All authority belongs to the people.
--Thomas Jefferson

Let them obey that know not how to rule.
--William Shakespeare

I have never been able to conceive how any rational being could propose happiness to himself from the exercise of power over others.
--Thomas Jefferson

Nothing intoxicates some people like a sip of authority.
--L. Ron Hubbard

Authority is like a bank account. The more you draw on it, the less you have.
--Unknown

Give authority to some people and they grow; give it to others and they swell.
—Unknown

Nothing pleases a little man more than an opportunity to crack a big whip.
--Unknown

If there's anything small, shallow, or ugly about a person, giving him a little authority will bring it out.

--Unknown

He who has learned to obey will know how to command.

—William Arthur Ward

Christ is the one child who knew more than his parents—yet he obeyed them.

—Unknown

Delayed obedience is the brother of disobedience.

--Unknown

To despise legitimate authority, no matter in whom it is invested, is unlawful; it is rebellion against God's will.

--Leo XIII

Disobedience in the eyes of any one who has read history is man's original virtue.

--Oscar Wilde

Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

--Alfred Lord Tennyson

The only prize much cared for by the powerful is power. The prize of the general is not a bigger tent, but command.

--Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Sr.

The lust for power, for dominating others, inflames the heart more than any other passion.

--Tacitus

Power gradually extirpates from the mind every humane and gentle virtue.

--Edmund Burke

No man doth safely rule but he that hath learned gladly to obey.

--Thomas a Kempis

They who are in highest places, and have the most power, have the least liberty, because they are most observed.

--John Tillotson

How will you find good? It is not a thing of choice; it is a river that flows from the foot of the invisible throne, and flows by the path of obedience.

--George Eliot

Even in war moral power is to physical as three parts out of four.

--Napoleon

Responsibilities gravitate to the person who can shoulder them; power flows to the man who knows how.

--Elbert Hubbard

Nothing is more gratifying to the mind of man than power or dominion.

--Joseph Addison

Nothing sooner overthrows a weak head than opinion of authority.

--Sir Philip Sidney

The lust for power is not rooted in strength but in weakness.

--Erich Fromm

All authority belongs to the people.

--Thomas Jefferson

The wisest have the most authority.

--Plato

Who holds a power but newly gained is ever stern of mood.

--Aeschylus

He who is firmly seated in authority soon learns to think security, and not progress, the highest lesson of statecraft.

--James Russell Lowell

Hungry men have no respect for law, authority, or human life.

--Marcus Garvey

The mortalist enemy unto knowledge, and that which hath done the greatest execution unto truth, has been a peremptory adhesion unto authority, and especially our belief upon the dictates of antiquities.

--Sir Thomas Browne

Authority sometimes proceeds from reason, but reason never from authority. For all authority that is not approved by true reason seems weak. But true reason, since it rests on its own strength, needs no reinforcement by any authority.

--Johannes Scotus
Erigena

We are in bondage to the law in order that we may be free.

--Cicero

Old age, especially an honoured old age, has so great authority, that this is of more value than all the pleasures of youth.

--Cicero

All power is a trust for the public good.

--Thomas B. Macaulay

To know the pains of power, we must go to those who have it;
to know its pleasures, we must go to those who are seeking it:
the pains of power are real, its pleasures imaginary.

—Charles Caleb Colton

Authority is no stronger than the man who wields it.

--Dolores E. McGuire

We must do the thing we must
Before the thing we may;
We are unfit for any trust
Till we can and do obey.

--George Macdonald

Who hath not served can not command.

--John Florio

Through obedience learn to command.

--Plato

Do not teach him science: let him discover it. If ever you substitute authority for reason in his mind, he will stop reasoning and become the victim of other people's opinions.

--Jean Jacques Rousseau

The purpose of education—both East and West—is the mass production of robots...who have so internalized social constraints that they submit to them automatically.

--Maurice Brinton

Authoritarianism contains a strictly interpersonal component: the tendency to divide the world into 'we' and 'they,' 'in-groups' and 'out-groups.' This is a product of a more basic tendency to conceive of the world in somewhat hostile terms, in which case the most important question to ask of a person is, 'Is he for me or is he against me?'

--Robert E. Lane

The power of authority is never more subtle and effective than when it produces a psychological 'atmosphere' or 'climate' favorable to the life of certain modes of belief, unfavorable, and even fatal, to the life of others.

--Arthur Balfour

The quest for authority results from a wide range of factors...the dissolution of conventional moral codes; the erosion of traditional authority....As a result, large numbers of people have begun to suffer a kind of choice fatigue. They hunger for an authority that will simplify, straighten out, assure.

--Harvey Cox

The great majority of people have a strong need for authority which they can admire, to which they can submit, and which dominates and sometimes even ill-treats them.

--Sigmund Freud

I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who unwillingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to rouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Good men must not obey the laws too well.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The joy of the young is to disobey—but the trouble is that there are no longer any orders.

--Jean Cocteau

It is no use saying 'we are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.

--Winston Churchill

It is much safer to obey than to rule.

--Thomas à Kempis

No morality can be founded on authority, even if the authority were divine.

--A. J. Ayer

Every man prefers belief to the exercise of judgment.

--Seneca

Many of us have been trained not to respect our own thinking, but to feel that we have to depend on the thinking of others. This leads us to acceptance of authority, whether what the authority says makes sense or not.

--Earl Kelley

Obedience is yielded the more readily to one who commands gently.

--Seneca the Younger

Authority is not power; that's coercion. Authority is not knowledge; that's persuasion, or seduction. Authority is simply that the author has the right to make a statement and to be heard.

--Herman Kahn

Never threaten; promise. Authority is only an illusion when it lacks conviction of intent.

--Greg Henry Quinn

Nothing destroys authority so much as the unequal and untimely interchange of power, pressed too far and relaxed too much.

--Francis Bacon

If one man can be allowed to determine for himself what is law, every man can. That means first chaos, then tyranny. Legal process is an essential part of the democratic process.

--Felix Frankfurter

All power is a trust for the public good.

--Macaulay

True law, the code of justice, the essence of our sensations of right and wrong, is the conscience of society.

--Walter Van Tilburg
Clark

The absurd duty, too often inculcated, of obeying a parent only on account of his being a parent, shackles the mind and prepares it for a slavish submission to any power but reason.

--Mary Wollstonecraft

The strongest bulwark of authority is uniformity; the least divergence from it is the greatest crime.

--Emma Goldman

All men in New York insult you....I am speaking of all persons who are clothed in a little brief authority.

--Mark Twain

Most men, after a little freedom, have preferred authority with the consoling assurances and the economy of effort which it brings.

--Walter Lippmann

He that will have his son have a respect for him and his orders must have a great reverence for his son.

--John Locke

He who is allowed to do as he likes will soon run his head into a brick wall out of sheer frustration.

--Robert Musil

The improver of knowledge absolutely refuses to acknowledge authority, as such. For him, skepticism is the highest of duties, blind faith the one unpardonable sin.

--Thomas Huxley

I've always tried to practice what I preach to students—namely, that beyond a reasonable tolerance they should not take a lot of nonsense from people just because they're in authority positions.

--Derrick Bell

He who longs to strengthen his spirit
must go beyond obedience and respect.
He will continue to honor some laws
but he will mostly violate both law and custom.

--Constantine Peter
Cavafy

Too much rigidity on the part of teachers should be followed by a brisk spirit of insubordination on the part of the taught.

--Agnes Repplier

If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun.

--Katharine Hepburn

Any fool can make a rule, and any fool will mind it.

--Henry David Thoreau

What you cannot enforce,
Do not command.

--Sophocles

The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it strictly.

--Lincoln

My soul hates the fool whose only passion is to live by rule.

--Santayana

Isn't it funny that anything the Supreme Court says is right?

--Robert Frost

We have few contemporary heroes, but we have plenty of trash-talking, high-fiving, stuff-strutting celebrities who seem transfixed by their own images. Is it any wonder that youngsters disrespect authority? They've learned well from their 'heroes' who only watch out for number one.

--Richard G. Capen, Jr.

A man's respect for law and order exists in precise relationship to the size of his paycheck.

--Adam Clayton
Powell Jr.

Wicked people obey from fear—good people, from love.

--Aristotle

Laws are felt only when an individual comes into contact with them.

--Susanne la Follette

When you make your peace with authority, you become authority.

--Jim Morrison

Acceptance is not submission; it is acknowledgment of the facts of a situation. Then deciding what you're going to do about it.

--Kathleen Casey Theisen

Rules reduce freedom and responsibility. Enforcement of rules is coercive and manipulative, which diminishes spontaneity and absorbs a group energy. The more coercive you are, the more resistant the group will become.

--John Heider

No oppression is so heavy or lasting as that which is inflicted by the perversion and exorbitance of legal authority.

--Joseph Addison

Our attitude towards others determines their attitude towards us.

--Earl Nightingale

Does it follow that I reject all authority? Perish the thought. In the matter of boots, I defer to the authority of the boot-maker.

—Mikhail Bakunin

The man whose authority is recent is always stern.

—Aeschylus

Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.

—Albert Einstein

Authority is something from which we are constantly subtracting, of which there remains always a residue, and which we attempt to make smaller and smaller.

—Frederica Montseny

Man became free when he recognized that he was subject to law.

—Will Durant

The very idea of the power and the right of the People to establish Government, presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established Government.

—George Washington

Law is nothing else than an ordinance of reason for the common good promulgated by him who has care of the community.

—St. Thomas Aquinas

Sadly, children's passion for learning often ends when they encounter a world that seeks to educate them for conformity and obedience only.

—Robert John Meehan

The authority of those who teach is often an obstacle to those who want to learn.

—Marcus Tullius Cicero

Truth can never be reached by just listening to the voice of an authority.

—Francis Bacon

Infancy isn't what it is cracked up to be. Children, not knowing that they are having an easy time, have a good many hard times. Growing and learning and obeying the rules of their elders, or fighting against them, are not easy things to do.

--Don Marquis

No man has any natural authority over his fellow men.

—Jean-Jacques
Rousseau

In poor and working-class households, children are urged to stay quiet and show deference to adult authority figures such as teachers. In middle-class households, kids learn to ask critical questions and to advocate for themselves—behaviors that serve them well in the classroom.

--Dana Goldstein

Written laws are like spider's webs; they will catch, it is true, the weak and the poor, but would be torn in pieces by the rich and powerful.

—Anacharsis

How many Catholic schools do you think teach the students to question the authority of the Pope? Do you believe Christian schools teach students to question or challenge the authority of Jesus Christ? Do military schools teach the cadets to challenge the authority?

—Neal Boortz

Institutional wisdom tells us that children need school. Institutional wisdom tells us that children learn in school. But this institutional wisdom is itself the product of schools because sound common sense tells us that only children can be taught in school. Only by segregating human beings in the category of childhood could we ever get them to submit to the authority of a schoolteacher.

—Ivan Illich

No one believes anymore that scientists are trained in science classes or politicians in civics classes or poets in English classes. The truth is that schools don't really teach anything except how to obey orders. This is a great mystery to me because thousands of humane, caring people work in schools as teachers and aides and administrators...but the institution is psychopathic, it has no conscience. It rings a bell and the young man in the middle of writing a poem must close his notebook and move to a different cell where he must memorize that man and monkeys derive from a common ancestor.

--John Gatto

Schools are structured in a manner that allows us to deliver a wealth of information and ideas to young people who lack our experience of and sophistication about the world. For the most part, educators assume that, if we cover something, the students have learned it. We talk, they listen. We present, they absorb. At the end of a year, when we have covered everything according to our plan, the students are deemed ready for the next level—at least most of them are. In some cases, students who do not make progress are subjected to another year of the same material, usually presented in the same way, usually with the same books, and often with the same teachers. Then, if they fail for a second time, we usually move them ahead anyway, because keeping them back at this point makes even less sense.

—Ted Sizer

We must shift the focus of our classrooms from obedience to understanding.

—Robert John Meehan

Ideally, what should be said to every child, repeatedly, throughout his or her school life is something like this: 'You are in the process of being indoctrinated. We have not yet evolved a system of education that is not a system of indoctrination. We are sorry, but it is the best we can do. What you are being taught here is an amalgam of current prejudice and the choices of this particular culture. The slightest look at history will show how impermanent these must be. You are being taught by people who have been able to accommodate themselves to a regime of thought laid down by their predecessors. It is a self-perpetuating system. Those of you who are more robust and individual than others will be encouraged to leave and find ways of educating yourself — educating your own judgements. Those that stay must remember, always, and all the time, that they are being moulded and patterned to fit into the narrow and particular needs of this particular society.'

—Doris Lessing

[The public school system is] usually a twelve year sentence of mind control. Crushing creativity, smashing individualism, encouraging collectivism and compromise, destroying the exercise of intellectual inquiry, twisting it instead into meek subservience to authority.

—Walter Karp

It is wrong to say that schoolmasters lack heart and are dried-up, soulless pedants! No, by no means. When a child's talent which he has sought to kindle suddenly bursts forth, when the boy puts aside his wooden sword, slingshot, bow-and-arrow and other childish games, when he begins to forge ahead, when the seriousness of the work begins to transform the rough-neck into a delicate, serious and an almost ascetic creature, when his face takes on an intelligent, deeper and more purposeful expression - then a teacher's heart laughs with happiness and pride. It is his duty and responsibility to control the raw energies and desires of his charges and replace them with calmer, more moderate ideals. What would many happy citizens and trustworthy officials have become but unruly, stormy innovators and dreamers of useless dreams, if not for the effort of their schools? In young beings there is something wild, ungovernable, uncultured which first has to be tamed. It is like a dangerous flame that has to be controlled or it will destroy. Natural man is unpredictable, opaque, dangerous, like a torrent cascading out of uncharted mountains. At the start, his soul is a jungle without paths or order. And, like a jungle, it must first be cleared and its growth thwarted. Thus it is the school's task to subdue and control man with force and make him a useful member of society, to kindle those qualities in him whose development will bring him to triumphant completion.

—Hermann Hesse

The atmosphere of the home is prolonged in the school, where the students soon discover that (as in the home) in order to achieve some satisfaction they must adapt to the precepts which have been set from above. One of these precepts is not to think.

— Paulo Freire

School is in many ways the beginning of those shark infested waters, when people, innocent children in this instance are hauled out of the utopia that is the family unit, hopefully full of love and warmth and protection, to be thrust instead into a whole other world where they are instantly told what they are and are not good at, who's better than them and why they need to change immediately.

—Chris Evans

In many countries, schools are preparing students to participate in a democratic environment; yet schools themselves tend to be extremely autocratic, with all high-level decisions being made by adults.

—Adora Svitak

Everyone who has ever been to school knows that school is prison, but almost nobody beyond school age says it is. It's not polite. We all tiptoe around the truth because admitting it would make us seem cruel and would point a finger at well-intentioned people doing what they believe to be essential. . . . A prison, according to the common, general definition, is any place of involuntary confinement and restriction of liberty. In school, as in adult prisons, the inmates are told exactly what they must do and are punished for failure to comply. Actually, students in school must spend more time doing exactly what they are told than is true of adults in penal institutions. Another difference, of course, is that we put adults in prison because they have committed a crime, while we put children in school because of their age.

—Peter Gray

Obedience of the law is demanded; not asked as a favor.

—Theodore Roosevelt

Though books, as Milton says, may be the embalming of mighty spirits, they are also the resurrection of rebellious, reactionary, fantastical, and wicked spirits! In books dwell all the demons and all the angels of the human mind. It is for this reason that a bookshop—especially a second-hand bookshop—is an arsenal of explosives, an armoury of revolutions, an opium den of reactions. And just because books are repository of all the redemptions and damnations, all the sanities and insanities, of the divine anarchy or the soul, they are still, as they have always been, an object of suspicion to every kind of ruling authority.

--John Cowper Powys

To admit authorities, however heavily furred and gowned, into our libraries and let them tell us how to read, what to read, what value to place upon what we read, is to destroy the spirit of freedom which is the breath of those sanctuaries. Everywhere else we may be bound by laws and conventions—there we have none.

—Virginia Woolf

Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.

—Plato

When you think of the long and gloomy history of man, you find more hideous crimes have been committed in the name of obedience than have ever been committed in the name of rebellion.

--C. P. Snow

Every great historic change has been based on nonconformity, has been bought either with the blood or with the reputation of nonconformists.

--Ben Shahn

The marvel of all history is the patience with which men and women submit to burdens unnecessarily laid upon them by their governments.

--George Washington

The history of liberty is a history of resistance.

—Woodrow Wilson

Why has government been instituted at all? Because the passions of men will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice without constraint.

--Alexander Hamilton

Laws made by common consent must not be trampled on by individuals.

--George Washington

I know no method to secure the repeal of bad, obnoxious, or unjust laws so effective as their strict execution.

--Ulysses S. Grant

No statement should be believed because it is made by an authority.

—Robert A. Heinlein

A nihilist is a man who does not bow to any authorities, who does not take any principle on trust, no matter with what respect that principle is surrounded.

--Ivan Sergeyevevich
Turgenev

Ordinary people, simply doing their jobs, and without any particular hostility on their part, can become agents in a terrible destructive process. Moreover, even when the destructive effects of their work become patently clear, and they are asked to carry out actions incompatible with fundamental standards of morality, relatively few people have the resources needed to resist authority.

—Stanley Milgram

Disobedience is the worst of evils. This it is that ruins a nation.

--Jean Anouilh

To make laws that man cannot, and will not obey, serves to bring all law into contempt.

--Elizabeth Cady
Stanton

Most of what we object to as misconduct in children is a natural rebellion against the intrusion of an unimaginative adult despotism in their lives.

--Floyd Dell

Boys naturally look on all force as an enemy.

--Henry Adams

The law is a causeway upon which, so long as he keeps to it, a citizen may walk safely.

--Robert Bolt

Anyone who takes it upon himself, on his private authority, to break a bad law, thereby authorizes everyone else to break the good ones.

--Denis Diderot

Laws too gentle are seldom obeyed; too severe, seldom executed.

--Benjamin Franklin

Law cannot persuade where it cannot punish.

--Thomas Fuller

The more laws, the more offenders.

--Thomas Fuller

Wherever law ends, tyranny begins.

--John Locke

Useless laws weaken necessary ones.

--Montesquieu

Laws are the very bulwarks of liberty; they define every man's rights, and defend the individual liberties of all men.

--J. G. Holland

The law creates citizens.

--Voltaire

The first of all laws is to respect the laws: the severity of penalties is only a vain resource, invented by little minds in order to substitute terror for that respect which they have no means of obtaining.

--Jean Jacques Rousseau

No rule is so general, which admits not some exception.

--Robert Burton

The power that keeps cities of men together
Is noble preservation of law.

--Euripides

There is no act more moral between men than that of rule and obedience.

--Thomas Carlyle

There is no zeal blinder than that which is impaired with the love of justice against offenders.

--Henry Fielding

It is very difficult for people to believe the simple fact that every persecutor was once a victim. Yet it should be very obvious that someone who was allowed to feel free and strong from childhood does not have the need to humiliate another person.

--Alice Miller

You can't legislate intelligence and common sense into people.

--Will Rogers

The strictest law sometimes becomes the severest injustice.

—Benjamin Franklin

The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers.

--Socrates (469–399 B.C.)

Vulnerable fathers turn to time-honored defensive responses to maintain the function that father knows best. Parents, especially fathers, teach their sons to obey authority no matter what.

—Martha Stout

If men were angels, no government would be necessary.

--James Madison

Why has government been instituted at all? Because the passions of men will not conform to the dictates of reason and justice without constraint.

--Alexander Hamilton

Parents who discipline their child by discussing the consequences of their actions produce children who have better moral development, compared to children whose parents use authoritarian methods and punishment.

—Simon Baron-Cohen

Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.

—The Buddha

Truth is the secret of eloquence and virtue, the basis of moral authority; it is the highest summit of art and of life.

--Henri Frederic Amiel

The passion for truth is silenced by answers which have the weight of undisputed authority.

--Paul Tillich

Like all weak men he laid an exaggerated stress on not changing one's mind.

--W. Somerset Maugham

Management means, in the last analysis, the substitution of thought for brawn and muscle, of knowledge for folkways and superstition, and of cooperation for force. It means the substitution of responsibility for obedience to rank, and of authority of performance for the authority of rank.

--Peter Drucker

We can delegate authority, but not responsibility.

—Lee Cockerell

Responsibility should always be coupled with corresponding authority.

--Chester Barnard

Leadership must be based on goodwill. Goodwill does not mean posturing and, least of all, pandering to the mob. It means obvious and wholehearted commitment to helping followers. We are tired of leaders we fear, tired of leaders we love, and most tired of leaders who let us take liberties with them. What we need for leaders are men of the heart who are so helpful that they, in effect, do away with the need of their jobs. But leaders like that are never out of a job, never out of followers. Strange as it sounds, great leaders gain authority by giving it away.

--Admiral James B.
Stockdale

The administrator may promote or prevent innovation. S/He is powerful, not because s/he has a monopoly on imagination, creativity, or interest in change—the opposite is common—but simply because s/he has the authority to precipitate a decision.

—Henry Brickell

All organizations recapitulate the basic family structure....Our earliest experiences with our parents are repeated in our subsequent relationships with authority. Early family life determines our assumptions of how power is distributed, and as we grow up we form groups on the same model.

--Harry Levinson

Every great advance in natural knowledge has involved the absolute rejection of authority.

--Thomas Huxley

In questions of science the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of an individual.

--Galileo Galilei

The relative freedom which we enjoy depends on public opinion. The law is no protection. Governments make laws, but whether they are carried out, and how the police behave, depends on the general temper in the country. If large numbers of people are interested in freedom of speech, there will be freedom of speech, even if the law forbids it; if public opinion is sluggish, inconvenient minorities will be persecuted, even if laws exist to protect them.

—George Orwell

Your job gives you authority. Your behavior earns you respect.

--Irwin Federman

My duty is to obey orders.

--Stonewall Jackson

What we call 'morals' is simply blind obedience to words of command.

--Havelock Ellis

We need to nurture uniqueness and independence....Ours must be schools for ego-strength—the child's ego, not the teacher's. 'You can do it!' has to be the teacher's consistent, over-and-over steady slogan: 'You can hang up your own coat....' 'You can pour your own juice....' 'You can climb to the top....' 'You can figure it out.' We have no stake in schools where children learn to color within the lines. No stake in pushing for unnecessary conformity, no stake in children submerging themselves in the group, no stake in everlasting lessons in obediently following the directions.

--James L. Hymes, Jr.

A man who enjoys responsibility usually gets it. A man who merely likes exercising authority usually loses it.

--Malcolm S. Forbes

He who cannot obey, cannot command.

--Benjamin Franklin

How a minority,
Reaching a majority,
Seizing authority,
Hates a minority!

--Leonard Harman
Robbins

I am conservative by temperament. I disapprove of criminal activity. I am very solidly and markedly on the side of authority. The truth is I would rather err on the side of too much authority than too little.

—James Ellroy

Happy are the families where the government of parents is the reign of affection, and obedience of the children the submission of love.

--*sentencedict.com*

It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right.

—Henry David Thoreau

Authority has always attracted the lowest elements in the human race. All through history, mankind has been bullied by scum. Those who lord it over their fellows and toss commands in every direction and would boss the grass in the meadow about which way to bend in the wind are the most depraved kind of prostitutes. They will submit to any indignity, perform any vile act, do anything to achieve power. The worst off-sloughings of the planet are the ingredients of sovereignty. Every government is a parliament of whores. The trouble is, in a democracy the whores are us.

--P. J. O'Rourke

One who breaks an unjust law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for law.

—Martin Luther
King, Jr.

Law is order, and good law is good order.

—Aristotle

Show me the man who keeps his house in hand, He's fit for public authority.

—Sophocles

If we do not maintain justice, justice will not maintain us.

—Francis Bacon

He makes a great mistake... who supposes that authority is firmer or better established when it is founded by force than that which is welded by affection.

—Terence

Most of the time, we see only what we want to see, or what others tell us to see, instead of really investigating to see what is really there. We embrace illusions only because we are presented with the illusions that are embraced by the majority. When in truth, they only become popular because they are pounded at us by the media with such an intensity and high level of repetition that its mere force disguises lies and truths. And like obedient schoolchildren, we do not question their validity and swallow everything up like medicine. Why? Because since the earliest days of our youth, we have been conditioned to accept that the direction of the herd, and authority anywhere—is always right.

--Suzy Kassem

Nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced. It is an open secret that the dangerous increase of crime in this country is closely related with this.

—Albert Einstein

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Men of authority have employed all the destructive agents around them to promote their own personal interests at the sacrifice of every just, honorable, and lawful consideration.

—John White Geary

Petty laws breed great crimes.

—Ouida

Children in their games are wont to submit to rules which they have themselves established, and to punish misdemeanors which they have themselves defined. The same spirit pervades every act of social life.

—Alexis de Tocqueville

Law helps organize human beings in communities that allow them to obtain the benefits of living together productively and in peace....The rule of law is the keystone of the effort to build a civilized, humane, and just society. At a time when facing facts, understanding the local and global challenges that they offer, and working to meet those challenges cooperatively is particularly urgent, we must continue to construct such a society—a society of laws—together.

—Stephen Breyer

Showing a lack of self-control is in the same vein granting authority to others: ‘Perhaps I need someone else to control me.’

—Criss Jami

By using quotations teachers can lend authority to their words. Students will more readily accept particular views knowing that great thinkers and authorities from the past have also held those views. It is a plus when a particular quotation or proverb is familiar to students because those well-known saying have already earned universal acceptance.

—Dan L. Miller