How many students physically fight their parents? Have you ever tried telling your mom what to do? Teenagers think when they are thirteen, fourteen, fifteen they are adults, and they don’t have to do what their own parents say.

When I was fifteen, I thought, I was old enough to do what I wanted and not listen to my parents. I had that feeling for two years, but when I became seventeen; my mother started fighting with me about anything and everything. Therefore, I decided maybe it would best if I split away from her. On December of 2007, I moved out. I thought it would be easy, but it turned out to be very challenging. It’s a lot less stressful and my grades are a lot better now versus when I was living with my mom because she would argue with me. But living on my own is hard.

When I moved out my mom was somewhat upset and didn’t talk to me for a while. One day, unexpectedly, she called me and started arguing with me, so I hung up on her because that is all she would ever call me for. Therefore, I told her to stop calling unless she was going to see how I was doing. Then she called me two months later.

I had so much stress at that time, I was failing most of my classes then. After I moved out, I was doing a lot better and passing all my classes, in school, and I told her that. She was kind of like realizing what she was doing wrong. We talked for a while, then got in a fight in public outside in front of my home that day. I did not want to have to call home, check in with my parents, so I asked to see if I could stay at one of my friend’s houses for one or two nights.

In conclusion, it depends on how old you are, if you are able to move out. Only if you don’t get along with your family, or they agree to it. Life could be a lot less stressful.

For discussion or writing:

1. Can you understand the need to move out on your own parents, or the needs of other teens to do this? Is moving out the best solution, do you think? What are some other solutions?

2. What are some of the obstacles or challenges for teens thinking about moving out of their parents’ home before the end of high school?

3. Identify what a stressful situation at home for a teen would be, causing the teen to feel the need to move out. Would this be a common or unusual occurrence?

Adapted from the NPR series, “This I Believe”