Voices and Citizenship

How people become citizens and help shape their communities

SS24.6.18 "Analyze how an individual's civic participation can influence government, politics, and society. 18a Identify and describe ways citizens work together to influence the government and solve problems..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, circle ways people work together and underline what the government does in response. Write R beside one right, D beside one responsibility, and Q beside one requirement for naturalization.

A Safer Way to School

1. Imagine a busy crossing near a middle school where cars rarely stop for walkers. One student collects neighbors' stories, and a group counts how many people cross after school. Residents bring their notes to a city council meeting and ask for a safer crossing. The council asks transportation workers to study the street. After the study, the city adds a marked crosswalk and a signal. One person's idea grows into a group effort that changes a government decision and makes walking safer for the neighborhood.

2. Speaking at a council meeting is one way to use the right to express an opinion. Eligible citizens can also vote for leaders who make local decisions. Rights are freedoms protected by law; they are not rewards for helping the city. Responsibilities are things citizens should or must do. Citizens must serve on a jury when legally called, and they must pay any taxes they owe. Learning about an issue and helping neighbors are important voluntary responsibilities. A person does not have to attend council meetings to remain a citizen.

3. Most people born in the United States become citizens at birth under the Fourteenth Amendment, even if their parents are not citizens. Some children born abroad also gain citizenship through a U.S. citizen parent. Others gain citizenship through naturalization, which requires an application and, for most applicants, years as a lawful permanent resident and a citizenship test. In 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment recognized citizenship for people born here, including formerly enslaved people. In 1924, Congress granted citizenship to Native Americans born in the United States who did not already have it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the student's action lead to a government decision in the crossing example?

2. Name one right, one required responsibility, and one voluntary responsibility from the passage. How are they different?

3. How can a person born in the United States become a citizen? How is naturalization different?

4. How did the events of 1868 and 1924 extend citizenship to people who had not been considered citizens?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town's park has broken lights. Write four sentences explaining one person's first step, how neighbors could work together, what they could ask the government to do, and one right or responsibility they would use.

ANSWER KEY

Voices and Citizenship

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.18

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, circle ways people work together and underline what the government does in response. Write R beside one right, D beside one responsibility, and Q beside one requirement for naturalization. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the student's action lead to a government decision in the crossing example?	**The student collects neighbors' stories. Residents add crossing counts and bring the notes to the city council, which has the street studied before the city adds a crosswalk and signal.**
2	Name one right, one required responsibility, and one voluntary responsibility from the passage. How are they different?	**Expressing an opinion is a protected right. Serving on a jury when legally called is required. Learning about an issue is a voluntary responsibility.**
3	How can a person born in the United States become a citizen? How is naturalization different?	**Most people born in the United States are citizens at birth. Naturalization is a later legal process that requires an application and, for most applicants, years as a lawful permanent resident and a citizenship test.**
4	How did the events of 1868 and 1924 extend citizenship to people who had not been considered citizens?	**The Fourteenth Amendment recognized citizenship for people born in the United States, including formerly enslaved people. In 1924, Congress granted citizenship to Native Americans born in the United States who did not already have it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would record which park lights are broken and when the park is dark. Neighbors and I would collect reports from park users and share them at a city council meeting. We would ask the city parks department to repair the lights. Speaking at the meeting uses our right to express an opinion.

Accept other accurate rights, required responsibilities, and voluntary responsibilities named in the passage. For Your Turn, accept a realistic group action and government request, with a correctly identified right or responsibility.