

# Rights in Action

Read how government helps protect freedom and fairness.

**SS.2.CG.1.2** "Explain how the U.S. government protects the liberty and rights of American citizens."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each action the government can take to protect rights, and circle each right or liberty named in the passage to show how rights are protected.

### How Rights Are Protected

- ① American citizens have rights, or freedoms protected by the U.S. government. People may share ideas, follow a religion, and meet peacefully. These liberties let people make choices and speak up. Rights belong to people, even when others disagree.
- ② The government protects rights in different ways. Some laws protect people from unfair treatment. Police enforce laws and help keep people safe. Courts listen when someone says a right was not respected. Judges use the law to decide cases fairly.
- ③ Citizens can vote for leaders who make and carry out laws. They can also tell leaders about a problem. If a rule is unfair, people may ask a court to review it. These steps help the government protect liberty and rights for everyone.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Name two liberties that people may have.

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2 How do courts help protect a person's rights?

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3 What is one way citizens can help protect liberty and rights?

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## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write two sentences. Make up a problem where a person's right is not respected. Tell which part of government could help and what it could do.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each action the government can take to protect rights, and circle each right or liberty named in the passage to show how rights are protected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                      | ANSWER                                                                                                                |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Name two liberties that people may have.                      | <b>People may share ideas, follow a religion, or meet peacefully. Any two.</b>                                        |
| 2 | How do courts help protect a person's rights?                 | <b>Courts listen when someone says a right was not respected, and judges use the law to decide cases fairly.</b>      |
| 3 | What is one way citizens can help protect liberty and rights? | <b>Citizens can vote for leaders, tell leaders about a problem, or ask a court to review an unfair rule. Any one.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

A town rule says Maya cannot share her idea at a peaceful meeting. A court can review the rule and decide if it respects her right to speak.

Accept a reasonable rights problem and an accurate government response from the passage, such as laws, police enforcing laws, courts, judges, or elected leaders. The response should explain how the action could protect a right or liberty.