

Why Government Matters

Read how laws, rules, and services help a community.

SS.3.CG.1 "Foundations of Government, Law, and the American Political System"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how government helps the community, and circle two laws or rules people follow.

A Clean Park for Everyone

- ① On Saturday, Maya visited Riverbend Park for a neighborhood cleanup. At the gate, a sign listed rules: put trash in bins, keep dogs on leashes, and stay off the flower beds. These laws and rules help people use the park safely and fairly. Without shared rules, one person's choices could harm other people or the park.
- ② Riverbend's town government helps care for places that everyone uses. It hires workers to collect trash and repair swings. The town uses money from taxes to pay for these services. Government also has people such as police officers and firefighters who protect the community. These jobs are hard for each family to do alone, but a community can work together through government.
- ③ At the cleanup, Maya noticed that a younger child wanted to pick the flowers. Maya pointed to the sign and explained that the rule protects the garden for all visitors. The child chose to take a photo instead. Later, everyone enjoyed the clean playground. When people follow laws and rules, they help protect rights, property, and safety in their community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Why does Riverbend Park have shared rules?

2 Name two services Riverbend's town government provides or pays for.

3 Why are some community jobs done through government instead of by each family alone?

4 How did the flower-bed rule protect the community?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a shared place, such as a library, playground, or sidewalk. Write two sentences that name one rule for that place and explain how a government service or worker could help the community there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how government helps the community, and circle two laws or rules people follow. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does Riverbend Park have shared rules?	The rules help people use the park safely and fairly. They also keep people's choices from harming others or the park.
2	Name two services Riverbend's town government provides or pays for.	Answers may include collecting trash, repairing swings, police protection, or fire protection.
3	Why are some community jobs done through government instead of by each family alone?	Some jobs are hard for each family to do alone. The community can work together through government.
4	How did the flower-bed rule protect the community?	It protected the garden so all visitors could enjoy it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the public library, a rule could ask visitors to use quiet voices so everyone can read. The town government could pay librarians to organize books and help visitors.

Accept a sensible rule for a shared place and an accurate explanation of how a government service or worker helps people there. Responses may use local, city, town, county, state, or federal government when appropriate.