

Votes Matter

Read how voting helps communities make choices.

SS.3.CG.2.2 "Describe the importance of voting in elections."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three sentences that begin with "Voting is important because." These sentences tell reasons voting matters in elections.

A Voice in an Election

- ① People vote when they choose among candidates or decide questions in an election. A candidate is a person who wants to serve in an office, such as mayor. In many elections, the candidate who receives the most votes wins. Voting is important because it gives people a peaceful way to share what they want their community, state, or country to do.
- ② Voting is important because each vote is a person's voice in a public choice. When many people vote, the result can show what more people in the community prefer. This helps leaders learn about voters' choices. A person may vote for a candidate, or vote yes or no on a local question, depending on the election.
- ③ Voting is important because people elected to lead make decisions that can affect schools, parks, roads, and other public services. Not every person chooses the same candidate or answer. Elections give people a fair process for making a shared decision, even when they disagree. Learning about choices before voting can help a voter make an informed choice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What peaceful way does voting give people?

2 When many people vote, what can the result show?

3 Name two public services that decisions by people elected to lead can affect.

4 How do elections help people make a shared decision when they disagree?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine your town is choosing how to improve a playground. Write two sentences explaining why people should vote in this election. Include one way the decision could affect the community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three sentences that begin with “Voting is important because.” These sentences tell reasons voting matters in elections. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What peaceful way does voting give people?	It gives people a peaceful way to share what they want their community, state, or country to do.
2	When many people vote, what can the result show?	It can show what more people in the community prefer.
3	Name two public services that decisions by people elected to lead can affect.	Any two: schools, parks, roads, or other public services.
4	How do elections help people make a shared decision when they disagree?	Elections give people a fair process for making a shared decision.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

People should vote so the town can hear what residents want for the playground. The vote can help leaders choose improvements that families will use.

For the marking job, students should underline the three sentences beginning with “Voting is important because”. Accept equivalent answers that explain voting gives people a voice, shows community preferences, or helps people make fair shared decisions.