

Ways to Serve

Read how people help shape public life.

SS.4.CG.2.2 "Explain the importance of voting, public service, and volunteerism to the state and nation."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence about voting, one about public service, and one about volunteerism that tells how each helps people or a community. Number your underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3.

People Make a Difference

- ① Every election day, adults in a state can choose people to represent them. Voting lets citizens share their ideas about laws, schools, and other public needs. When many eligible voters take part, leaders can better understand what people want. Elections also give voters a peaceful way to choose new leaders or keep leaders they support.
- ② Public service means working to help a community through a government job or role. Firefighters, police officers, teachers in public schools, and park workers serve the public in different ways. They protect people, teach children, care for shared places, or provide other needed services. Their work helps a state and nation run safely and fairly.
- ③ Volunteerism is giving time and effort to help without being paid. For example, neighbors might collect food for a local pantry or clean a riverbank. Volunteers can notice a need and work together to meet it. This strengthens communities and can solve problems that governments cannot handle alone. Voting, public service, and volunteerism are different, but each helps people shape and improve public life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can voting help leaders understand what people want?

2 Name two ways public servants help their communities.

3 Why is volunteerism important to a community?

4 What do voting, public service, and volunteerism have in common?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one public need in your community, such as safer streets, cleaner parks, or helping families get food. Write three sentences explaining how voting, public service, and volunteerism could each help with that need.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence about voting, one about public service, and one about volunteerism that tells how each helps people or a community. Number your underlined sentences 1, 2, and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can voting help leaders understand what people want?	When many eligible voters take part, leaders can better understand what people want.
2	Name two ways public servants help their communities.	Answers may include protecting people, teaching children, caring for shared places, or providing needed services.
3	Why is volunteerism important to a community?	Volunteers can notice a need, work together to meet it, strengthen communities, and help solve problems governments cannot handle alone.
4	What do voting, public service, and volunteerism have in common?	Each helps people shape and improve public life.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town needs safer sidewalks near the school. Adults can vote for leaders who support sidewalk repairs, and public workers can plan and build them. Volunteers can share safety information and help clean trash from walkways.

Accept answers that accurately explain a meaningful role for voting, public service, and volunteerism in addressing one community need. Students may choose any reasonable public need and may use examples beyond those in the passage.