

Voices for Safety

See how people can take part in community decisions.

SS.4.CG.2 "Civic and Political Participation"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In paragraph 2, number 1 through 4 the four action phrases that begin with First, Next, Then, and Finally. These phrases show ways people can take part in civic life.

A Safer Crossing

- ① Near Lincoln Elementary, the crosswalk paint had faded. Cars sometimes rolled through before children reached the other curb. Fourth graders wanted a safer walk to school. They learned that local government can improve streets, but officials need to hear from people who use them. The class chose to share a clear request for brighter crosswalk paint and a crossing sign.
- ② First, the students wrote letters to the city transportation office. Next, they gathered signatures from families who supported the request. Then, two students gave public comment at a city council meeting, explaining why the crossing felt unsafe. Finally, the class volunteered at a Saturday cleanup near the school. These actions let young people share ideas, ask for change, and help their community.
- ③ Two weeks later, a city worker inspected the crossing. The transportation office said it would repaint the lines and study the sign request. The project showed that civic participation is more than voting when people are adults. People of many ages can communicate with leaders, join with neighbors, and volunteer to solve a local problem. Their voices can guide community decisions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What safety change did the class request?

2 Which action let students speak directly to the city council?

3 Which action showed that families supported the request?

4 What did the transportation office say it would do after the crossing was inspected?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a problem at school or in your community. Write three sentences: name the problem, describe two different civic actions you could take, and explain how one action could help bring change.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In paragraph 2, number 1 through 4 the four action phrases that begin with First, Next, Then, and Finally. These phrases show ways people can take part in civic life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What safety change did the class request?	Brighter crosswalk paint and a crossing sign.
2	Which action let students speak directly to the city council?	Two students gave public comment at a city council meeting.
3	Which action showed that families supported the request?	The students gathered signatures from families.
4	What did the transportation office say it would do after the crossing was inspected?	It said it would repaint the lines and study the request for a crossing sign.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our playground needs a water fountain that works. I could write a letter to the principal and collect signatures from students who agree. The letter could explain why clean drinking water would help students during recess.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the four actions and the transportation office response. For Your Turn, accept a realistic local problem, two civic actions, and a clear explanation of how one action could help.