

Keeping Self-Government

Civic actions help a constitutional republic endure.

SS.5.CG.2.4 "Evaluate the importance of civic duties and responsibilities to the preservation of the United States' constitutional republic."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each civic duty or responsibility in the passage. Circle the words that explain how each action helps preserve the constitutional republic.

Citizens Keep It Working

- ① The United States is a constitutional republic. The Constitution sets rules and limits for government, while voters choose people to represent them. This system depends on citizens doing more than enjoying rights. When people learn about issues, listen to different views, and vote in elections, they help representatives make choices that reflect the people they serve.
- ② Some civic duties are required by law. Adults who are called for jury service must report, unless a court excuses them. Jurors study evidence and help decide cases fairly. People also must obey laws and pay taxes. Taxes support constitutional government services, such as courts and elections. Meeting these duties helps laws apply fairly and keeps public institutions working.
- ③ Other civic responsibilities are choices that strengthen the community. A citizen might check whether a claim is supported by reliable sources before sharing it, attend a public meeting, or contact an elected official respectfully. These actions are not usually required by law, but they matter. Informed and respectful participation helps people solve problems peacefully and holds representatives accountable to the Constitution and the public.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How does learning about issues and voting help preserve the constitutional republic?

2 Why is jury service important to the constitutional republic?

3 What is one difference between a civic duty and a civic responsibility?

4 Choose one responsibility from the third paragraph. How can it help preserve the constitutional republic?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence message to a classmate about one civic responsibility you could do before a local election. Describe the action and explain how it can help preserve a constitutional republic.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each civic duty or responsibility in the passage. Circle the words that explain how each action helps preserve the constitutional republic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does learning about issues and voting help preserve the constitutional republic?	It helps representatives make choices that reflect the people they serve.
2	Why is jury service important to the constitutional republic?	Jurors study evidence and help decide cases fairly, which helps laws apply fairly and keeps courts working.
3	What is one difference between a civic duty and a civic responsibility?	A civic duty is required by law, while a civic responsibility is usually a choice that strengthens the community.
4	Choose one responsibility from the third paragraph. How can it help preserve the constitutional republic?	Answers may name checking reliable sources, attending a public meeting, or respectfully contacting an elected official. It helps citizens participate knowledgeably and respectfully, solve problems peacefully, or hold representatives accountable.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before the school board election, I would compare candidates' ideas using reliable local news and official candidate information. I would share a fact-checked summary with my family and listen to their views. This responsibility helps voters make informed choices, so elected representatives are more likely to respond to the people.

Accept responses that name a realistic civic responsibility and accurately explain its connection to informed participation, peaceful problem-solving, fair government, or accountability. Students may use different examples than those in the passage if their explanations are sound.