

Citizenship In Action

Tell required civic duties from voluntary civic responsibilities.

SS.7.CG.2.2 "Differentiate between obligations and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship and evaluate their impact on society."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each obligation, circle each responsibility, and number the sentences that explain how either type affects society.

Duties That Shape a Community

- ① Citizenship connects people to a country and to one another. Some civic duties are obligations, meaning the law requires eligible citizens or residents to do them. For example, people must obey laws and pay taxes. A citizen who receives a jury summons must report unless the court excuses that person. These obligations help courts function, fund public services, and protect people's rights. Ignoring them can lead to penalties, such as fines or other legal consequences.
- ② Responsibilities are important actions that citizens are expected to consider, but the law does not force every person to do them. Voting is a responsibility for eligible citizens. By voting, people help choose leaders and decide some public questions. Other responsibilities include learning about issues, respecting the rights of others, and helping solve community problems. When many people take these actions, leaders hear more viewpoints and communities can respond better to needs. A person may choose not to vote without a legal penalty.
- ③ Consider a town preparing its annual budget. Taxes collected from residents can support the library, fire department, and road repairs, so paying taxes affects everyone. Residents can also attend a public meeting, ask questions, or share ideas about priorities. These are responsible ways to participate, not legal requirements. If few residents participate, officials may hear only a limited set of concerns. If residents obey laws, meet required civic duties, and participate responsibly, they strengthen fairer, safer, and more responsive communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why is reporting for jury service, unless excused, an obligation rather than a responsibility? Give one effect of this obligation.

2 Compare paying taxes with attending a public meeting. Which action is an obligation, and which is a responsibility? State one effect of either action.

3 What may happen when few residents participate in public meetings or other community actions?

4 A community's residents obey laws and pay taxes but rarely vote or attend meetings. What important result may be missing, and why?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences about a realistic community situation. Include one obligation and one responsibility, label each one, and explain how each action can affect the community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each obligation, circle each responsibility, and number the sentences that explain how either type affects society. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is reporting for jury service, unless excused, an obligation rather than a responsibility? Give one effect of this obligation.	The court legally requires a summoned citizen to report unless excused. Jury service helps courts function.
2	Compare paying taxes with attending a public meeting. Which action is an obligation, and which is a responsibility? State one effect of either action.	Paying taxes is an obligation, while attending a public meeting is a responsibility. Taxes can fund public services, and meeting participation can help officials hear residents' ideas.
3	What may happen when few residents participate in public meetings or other community actions?	Officials may hear only a limited set of concerns, so the community may respond less well to residents' needs.
4	A community's residents obey laws and pay taxes but rarely vote or attend meetings. What important result may be missing, and why?	Leaders may not hear many viewpoints or concerns. Without responsible participation, the community may be less responsive to residents' needs.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan pays the taxes owed on earnings, which is an obligation. This action helps fund services such as road repairs. Jordan also researches candidates and votes in a local election, which is a responsibility that helps leaders hear community viewpoints.

Accept accurate examples of legal obligations, such as obeying laws, paying taxes owed, or responding to jury service, and voluntary responsibilities, such as voting or attending meetings. The response must correctly label both types and explain a reasonable community impact for each.