

Citizen Action Choices

Read how rights, duties, and direct civic actions work together.

SS.7.CG.2 "Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each right protected by the Constitution, circle only responsibilities described as required duties rather than responsible behavior or information gathering, and number 1-4 the four paragraph 3 actions that directly send a choice, request, or opinion to a government decision maker, beginning with voting.

Using Citizenship in Daily Life

- ① United States citizens have roles in both their communities and their government. The Constitution protects rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to petition the government. These rights let citizens share ideas and ask leaders to address problems. Rights are not permission to harm others. For example, a person may state an opinion at a school board meeting, but should speak truthfully and respect other people's right to speak. Using rights responsibly helps public discussion work.
- ② Citizens also have responsibilities that support the rule of law and fair courts. They must obey laws, pay required taxes, and serve on a jury when called, unless legally excused. Staying informed about issues and checking reliable sources helps citizens make careful choices. Community roles matter too. People can volunteer, join a neighborhood group, or attend a public meeting. These activities strengthen society, even when they do not directly ask a government official to make a decision.
- ③ When citizens want to influence a government decision, they can use several direct methods. A registered voter can vote in an election. A group can sign a petition asking a city council to act. A resident can give public comment at a hearing or contact a representative by letter, email, or phone. Each method communicates a choice, request, or opinion to decision makers. Citizens can also listen to views they disagree with and use accurate information before choosing an action.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Which right lets citizens ask leaders to address problems? What can citizens do by using that right?

2 Name two required civic duties from paragraph 2.

3 Why is attending a public meeting not numbered as a direct method, while giving public comment is?

4 How does checking reliable sources affect a citizen's choices?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly 3 sentences about a local issue you care about. Name one right you would use, one required responsibility you would meet, and two direct methods you would use to communicate with a government decision maker.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each right protected by the Constitution, circle only responsibilities described as required duties rather than responsible behavior or information gathering, and number 1-4 the four paragraph 3 actions that directly send a choice, request, or opinion to a government decision maker, beginning with voting. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which right lets citizens ask leaders to address problems? What can citizens do by using that right?	The right to petition the government. Citizens can ask government leaders to address a problem or take action.
2	Name two required civic duties from paragraph 2.	Any two: obey laws, pay required taxes, serve on a jury when called unless legally excused.
3	Why is attending a public meeting not numbered as a direct method, while giving public comment is?	Attending a meeting can strengthen society, but it does not directly ask an official to decide or act. Public comment directly communicates an opinion or request to decision makers.
4	How does checking reliable sources affect a citizen's choices?	It helps citizens make careful choices using accurate information.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I want the city council to add a crosswalk near the library. I would use my right to petition the government, obey laws while collecting signatures, and give public comment at a council hearing. A petition and public comment fit because they directly ask council members to act.

For the marking task, students should circle only obey laws, pay required taxes, and serve on a jury when called. For Part 3, accept any plausible local issue if the response includes a protected right, a required duty, and two direct communication methods.