

How We Are Heard

Read how citizens, representatives, and the Constitution work together.

SS3CG1 "Describe the elements of representative democracy/republic in the United States."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence beginning "Citizens who are allowed to vote" and circle the sentence beginning "People can share their ideas," these two sentences show how people take part in a representative democracy.

People and Their Government

- ① In the United States, people do not vote on every law themselves. Instead, they choose representatives to speak and act for them. This kind of government is called a representative democracy, or republic. Citizens who are allowed to vote can choose leaders in elections. These leaders may serve in city, state, or national government.
- ② Representatives listen to people in their communities. A representative might read letters, attend a town meeting, and talk with other leaders before voting on a law. People can share their ideas by writing to a representative or speaking at a meeting. Representatives must make choices for many people, even when people have different opinions about laws.
- ③ The Constitution is the highest law of the United States. It explains the powers of government and protects important rights, such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Government leaders must follow the Constitution. Courts can decide whether a law follows the Constitution. These rules help limit government power and protect people's rights in daily life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is a representative democracy, or republic?

2 How can citizens who are allowed to vote choose their leaders?

3 Name one way people can share their ideas with a representative.

4 Name one right the Constitution protects. What can courts decide about a law?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine your town is considering a new rule for a public park. Write three sentences that explain how people choose a representative, how residents share an idea about the rule, and one Constitution right the representative must respect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence beginning “Citizens who are allowed to vote” and circle the sentence beginning “People can share their ideas,” these two sentences show how people take part in a representative democracy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is a representative democracy, or republic?	It is a government in which people choose representatives to speak and act for them.
2	How can citizens who are allowed to vote choose their leaders?	They choose leaders in elections.
3	Name one way people can share their ideas with a representative.	They can write to a representative or speak at a meeting.
4	Name one right the Constitution protects. What can courts decide about a law?	It protects freedom of speech or freedom of religion. Courts can decide whether a law follows the Constitution.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In River Town, eligible voters elect Ana as their city representative. Residents write Ana letters and speak at a town meeting about a park rule. Ana must respect people's freedom of speech when she helps decide on the rule.

Accept equivalent wording from the passage. For the open response, accept any realistic town rule, a clear election of a representative, a way residents communicate, and an accurate protected right.