

Choices Build Community

Rules and civic actions help a community work well.

SS3CG2.b "Explain the necessity of obeying reasonable laws/rules voluntarily, and explain why it is important for citizens in a democratic society to participate in public (civic) life (staying informed, voting, volunteering..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that explains why people should obey reasonable rules voluntarily. Circle four actions citizens can take to participate in civic life.

Helping a Town Work Well

- ① On Saturday, Maya visited the town playground with her little brother. A sign said, "Use the swings one at a time and put trash in bins." These are reasonable rules because they help people stay safe and keep the playground clean. Maya followed them even when no adult stood nearby. Choosing to obey reasonable rules without being forced shows responsibility for other people.
- ② In a democracy, citizens help shape choices that affect their community. Before the town council planned a new crosswalk, people read news from the council and learned where children crossed the street. Adults who could vote chose council members. Some neighbors volunteered at a meeting, and others sent messages to officials. These actions helped officials hear what people needed.
- ③ Civic participation is more than voting. Citizens can stay informed by reading reliable local news and asking questions. They can volunteer to improve a park or help at a food drive. They can respectfully communicate with public officials about a problem or an idea. When citizens take part, leaders get information from the community, and people have peaceful ways to work for change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did Maya follow the playground rules even when no adult was nearby?

2 Name two ways people participated before the town council planned the crosswalk.

3 How can civic participation help public officials?

4 What are two ways citizens can take part in civic life besides voting?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about one reasonable rule in your school or community. Explain why you would follow it even without an adult watching, then name two different civic actions you could take to help improve your community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that explains why people should obey reasonable rules voluntarily. Circle four actions citizens can take to participate in civic life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Maya follow the playground rules even when no adult was nearby?	She followed them because the rules helped keep people safe and the playground clean. Voluntarily obeying showed responsibility for other people.
2	Name two ways people participated before the town council planned the crosswalk.	Answers may include reading council news, learning where children crossed the street, voting for council members, volunteering at a meeting, or sending messages to officials.
3	How can civic participation help public officials?	It helps officials hear what people need and get information from the community.
4	What are two ways citizens can take part in civic life besides voting?	Answers may include staying informed, asking questions, volunteering, or respectfully communicating with public officials.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At our school, students walk on the right side of the hallway. I would follow this rule when no adult is watching because it helps everyone move safely. To improve our community, I could volunteer at a library cleanup and write a respectful message to a council member.

Accept answers that accurately connect reasonable rules to safety, cleanliness, fairness, or responsibility. For the open response, accept any reasonable rule, a clear reason for voluntary obedience, and two appropriate civic actions.