

Beliefs Build Community

Read how shared democratic beliefs help people act fairly.

SS3CG2 “Explain the importance of Americans sharing certain central democratic beliefs and principles, both personal and civic.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or sentences that name a democratic belief or principle. Circle actions that show how people use those beliefs to work together.

A Town Listens

- ① On Saturday, the town library held a meeting about adding a bike rack. Children and adults shared ideas. Some wanted it by the front door, while others wanted it near the playground. Everyone had a chance to speak, and people listened without shouting. This showed respect for others and the belief that each person’s voice matters.
- ② Sharing democratic beliefs helps a community solve problems peacefully. People may disagree, but they can look for a fair choice. They can also follow rules that apply to everyone. Rules protect people’s rights, such as the right to share an opinion. When people respect rights and rules, they can trust that decisions are not made for only one person.
- ③ After the meeting, a student named Mia found a wallet on a bench. She gave it to a library worker instead of keeping it. Her honest choice showed personal responsibility. Later, the group voted on the bike rack location, and the decision followed the most votes. Even people who chose another place accepted the result. Their shared beliefs helped the town act fairly and work together.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What belief did the library meeting show when everyone had a chance to speak?

2 How did listening without shouting show respect for others?

3 Why is it important for rules to apply to everyone?

4 What personal principle did Mia show, and what did she do?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write three sentences about your class choosing a new game for recess. Name one democratic belief, tell one personal action you would take, and tell one civic action the class would take to make a fair decision.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or sentences that name a democratic belief or principle. Circle actions that show how people use those beliefs to work together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What belief did the library meeting show when everyone had a chance to speak?	The belief that each person's voice matters.
2	How did listening without shouting show respect for others?	People listened to different ideas calmly instead of shouting.
3	Why is it important for rules to apply to everyone?	Rules that apply to everyone protect people's rights and help people trust that decisions are fair.
4	What personal principle did Mia show, and what did she do?	She showed personal responsibility by giving the wallet to a library worker.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class should show respect by listening to every idea. I will wait my turn and speak honestly. Then we will vote, and we will accept the result.

Accept equivalent descriptions of respect, fairness, responsibility, rights, rules, listening, voting, and accepting a fair result. For Part 3, look for one named belief, one personal action, and one class action that supports a fair decision.