

Your Voice Counts

Identify ways Australians participate in government decisions.

SS6CG4 "Explain forms of citizen participation in government."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the first complete sentence that names each broad form of citizen participation, then number the forms 1 to 4. Count voting, contacting a representative, signing or making a petition, and taking part in a community consultation as separate forms, but do not count actions within one form separately.

Ways Citizens Take Part

- ① In Australia, citizens can take part in government in several ways. One form is voting in elections. Australian citizens aged 18 and over must enrol and vote in federal, state or territory, and local elections where voting is required. By voting, people choose representatives to make decisions for their area. A voter can learn about candidates, compare their ideas, and cast a secret ballot. Voting gives each eligible voter a chance to help choose who will represent the community.
- ② Another form is contacting an elected representative, such as a local councillor or a member of parliament. A resident might email, write, phone, or meet the representative to explain a concern and request action. A petition is a different form of participation. It collects signatures from people who support a request, then is presented to a parliament or council under its rules. Contacting a representative shares an individual's view, while a petition shows that many people support the same request.
- ③ Governments also ask the public for ideas before some decisions are made. This process is called a community consultation. For example, a council may invite residents to complete a survey, attend a meeting, or send written feedback about a proposed playground plan. These are ways to participate in the consultation. People can explain how a decision may affect them and suggest changes. Officials consider the feedback alongside other information, but they do not have to follow every suggestion. Participation lets citizens influence decisions and hold representatives accountable.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does voting let eligible citizens participate in government?

2 What is one difference between contacting a representative and using a petition?

3 Name two ways a resident can take part in a council's community consultation.

4 What is a community consultation, and what happens to the feedback people give?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine your council is considering a safer crossing near your school. Write exactly three sentences that name three different forms of citizen participation and explain how people could use each form to support the crossing.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the first complete sentence that names each broad form of citizen participation, then number the forms 1 to 4. Count voting, contacting a representative, signing or making a petition, and taking part in a community consultation as separate forms, but do not count actions within one form separately. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does voting let eligible citizens participate in government?	Voting lets eligible citizens choose representatives who will make decisions for their area.
2	What is one difference between contacting a representative and using a petition?	Contacting a representative shares one person's view, while a petition collects signatures to show that many people support the same request.
3	Name two ways a resident can take part in a council's community consultation.	A resident can complete a survey, attend a meeting, or send written feedback. Any two are correct.
4	What is a community consultation, and what happens to the feedback people give?	A community consultation is a process in which government asks the public for ideas before some decisions are made. Officials consider the feedback with other information, but do not have to follow every suggestion.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During a community consultation about a safer crossing, I would send written feedback explaining where students need a crossing. I would contact my local councillor and ask the council to add the crossing to its plan. I would organise a petition so residents can show their support for the request.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the four broad forms and the actions that fit each form. For the open response, accept any three distinct forms from the passage that are accurately applied to the local issue.