

Rights With Responsibility

Reading Georgia's Constitution as a guide for civic action

SS8CG1.c "Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens according to the Georgia Constitution."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each right protected by the Georgia Constitution. Circle each responsibility citizens are expected or required to carry out, then number one sentence that shows a right must be used responsibly.

Citizens in Georgia

- ① The Georgia Constitution begins with a Bill of Rights. It protects people from unfair government action and lists freedoms that citizens may use. Georgians may speak, write for the press, practice religion, assemble peacefully, and petition government officials. The constitution also protects due process, meaning government must follow fair legal procedures before taking a person's life, liberty, or property. In criminal cases, it provides important protections, including the right to a lawyer and the right to a trial by jury.
- ② Voting gives eligible citizens a way to choose leaders and influence public decisions. A Georgia voter must be a United States citizen, at least eighteen years old, a resident of Georgia, and registered as law requires. The right to vote does not require a person to agree with government leaders. However, voting responsibly means learning about candidates and issues, following election rules, and respecting other voters' right to cast a ballot. Citizens can also contact representatives or attend public meetings to share views without threats or violence.
- ③ Rights work alongside responsibilities in a constitutional system. The Georgia Constitution says each person may speak, write, and publish opinions, but is responsible for abusing that liberty. Citizens should respect the rights and safety of others, obey laws, and use peaceful methods to solve disagreements. Paying taxes required by law helps support public services. When summoned for jury service, qualified residents must participate unless excused. By voting carefully, serving on juries, and staying informed, citizens help government represent the people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two rights protected in the first paragraph.

2 According to the passage, what does due process require government to do before taking a person's life, liberty, or property?

3 What four requirements does the passage give for a person to vote in Georgia?

4 Identify two citizen responsibilities from the passage. Explain how one of them helps Georgia's constitutional system.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A city proposes a rule that you think is unfair. Write exactly three sentences explaining one constitutional right you would use to respond and two responsibilities you would follow while responding.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each right protected by the Georgia Constitution. Circle each responsibility citizens are expected or required to carry out, then number one sentence that shows a right must be used responsibly. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two rights protected in the first paragraph.	Any two: freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, peaceful assembly, petitioning government, due process, right to a lawyer in criminal cases, or trial by jury.
2	According to the passage, what does due process require government to do before taking a person's life, liberty, or property?	Government must follow fair legal procedures.
3	What four requirements does the passage give for a person to vote in Georgia?	The person must be a United States citizen, at least eighteen years old, a resident of Georgia, and registered as law requires.
4	Identify two citizen responsibilities from the passage. Explain how one of them helps Georgia's constitutional system.	Answers may name obeying laws, respecting others' rights and safety, paying required taxes, jury service when summoned unless excused, voting carefully, or staying informed. The explanation should connect one responsibility to public services, fair trials, peaceful civic life, or representative government.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would use the right to petition city officials about the proposed rule. Before signing a petition, I would learn how the rule could affect residents and check reliable information. At a public meeting, I would speak peacefully and respect people who disagree.

Accept equivalent rights and responsibilities accurately drawn from the passage. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, one relevant right, and two responsible actions, including peaceful and respectful civic participation.