Ways to Be Heard

Read about ways to learn and take part in government decisions.

4.SS.4.6 "Identify ways to be informed about and participate in state, Tribal, and local governments."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB For each government in the passage, underline one way a person learns about its plans and circle one way a person can take part in its decisions.

Safer Ways to Walk

1. On Monday, Nia notices that the road near her school needs a safer crossing. Her teacher explains that different governments make decisions about different places. The city council can discuss a crossing on a city street. Nia checks the city's website for the next public meeting. She can attend with an adult and tell council members where students have trouble crossing.

2. Her cousin Eli lives in a Tribal community where the Tribal council makes decisions about paths on Tribal land. Tribal governments govern their own communities. Eli hears on his Tribe's radio station that the council will discuss a new walking path. He can ask an adult to help him send a letter with his idea. Each Tribe sets its own rules about who may vote in Tribal elections.

3. At home, Nia learns that the state transportation agency plans changes to a state highway near town. She reads the plan at the public library, where copies are available. The agency invites written comments before making a decision. Nia writes that drivers need a clear sign near the school bus stop. When she is old enough and meets state rules, she may vote in state elections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can Nia learn about the city council's meeting, and what can she do there?

2. How does Eli learn about the Tribal council's plan, and how can he share his idea?

3. Where can Nia read the state agency's plan, and how can she respond before a decision is made?

4. Who sets the rules for voting in Tribal elections? What rules must Nia meet to vote in a state election?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a new problem in your community that is not in the passage. In three sentences, name a government that could address it, explain how you would learn about its plans, and describe how you would take part.

ANSWER KEY

Ways to Be Heard

GRADE 4 · 4.SS.4.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

For each government in the passage, underline one way a person learns about its plans and circle one way a person can take part in its decisions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can Nia learn about the city council's meeting, and what can she do there?	**She can check the city's website, then attend the meeting and tell council members where students have trouble crossing.**
2	How does Eli learn about the Tribal council's plan, and how can he share his idea?	**He hears about the plan on his Tribe's radio station and can send a letter with help from an adult.**
3	Where can Nia read the state agency's plan, and how can she respond before a decision is made?	**She can read the plan at the public library and send a written comment.**
4	Who sets the rules for voting in Tribal elections? What rules must Nia meet to vote in a state election?	**Each Tribe sets its own Tribal election rules. Nia must be old enough and meet state voting rules.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city council could help fix a broken swing at a city park. I would check the city's website for a public meeting about park repairs. I would tell council members which swing is broken and ask them to fix it.

For the marking job, accept any passage-supported way to learn and take part for each of the three governments. For Your Turn, accept a different community problem with a suitable government and realistic ways to learn and participate.