A Town Decides

Find five civic ideas in a town decision.

4.SS.4.7 "Describe the concepts of citizenship, popular sovereignty, respect for the individual, equality of opportunity, and personal liberty."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in the passage that shows each civic idea. Number your details 1 to 5 in this order: citizenship, popular sovereignty, respect for the individual, equality of opportunity, and personal liberty.

A New Corner at the Library

1. In the town of Willow Bend, neighbors want a new reading corner in the public library. Maya is a citizen of the United States. Citizenship means being a legal member of a country, with rights and responsibilities. Maya cannot vote yet, but she can write to the town council and help care for shared spaces. Eligible adult citizens vote for council members who make town decisions.

2. The council asks neighbors what they want before it spends public money. This shows popular sovereignty: government gets its power from the people it serves. People elect council members, and the members listen to public ideas. One neighbor wants quiet study seats; another wants a place for group reading. The council lets each person speak without being mocked, showing respect for the individual even when opinions differ.

3. The library announces a free storytelling club and offers sign-up forms in several languages. It also offers an accessible way to sign up for people who need it. These steps give more people a fair chance to join, which is equality of opportunity, not a promise that everyone will choose to join. Each visitor may choose a book they enjoy. That freedom of choice is one example of personal liberty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Maya show citizenship even though she cannot vote?

2. How does the town's way of choosing council members show popular sovereignty?

3. How does the council show respect for the individual, and how does the library support equality of opportunity?

4. Which choice at the library shows personal liberty? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is deciding how to use an empty public lot. In five sentences, describe how citizenship, popular sovereignty, respect for the individual, equality of opportunity, and personal liberty could shape the town's decision and the lot's use.

ANSWER KEY

A Town Decides

GRADE 4 · 4.SS.4.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in the passage that shows each civic idea. Number your details 1 to 5 in this order: citizenship, popular sovereignty, respect for the individual, equality of opportunity, and personal liberty. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya show citizenship even though she cannot vote?	**She writes to the town council and helps care for shared spaces.**
2	How does the town's way of choosing council members show popular sovereignty?	**Eligible adult citizens elect the council members who make town decisions.**
3	How does the council show respect for the individual, and how does the library support equality of opportunity?	**The council lets people with different opinions speak without being mocked. The library offers sign-up forms in several languages and an accessible way to sign up.**
4	Which choice at the library shows personal liberty? Explain why.	**Visitors may choose books they enjoy. They have freedom to make that choice for themselves.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

As a citizen, I would send the council a letter about making the lot a garden and help keep it clean. To show popular sovereignty, voters could choose leaders who ask residents for ideas before deciding what to build. At a town meeting, leaders would listen politely to people who prefer a playground, showing respect for each person. The town could hold meetings at different times and accept ideas by phone so more residents have a fair chance to take part. In the garden, visitors could choose which vegetables to plant in their own plots, showing personal liberty.

For the marking job, accept any passage detail that clearly shows the numbered civic idea. For Part 3, accept different plans if each of the five ideas is accurately shown in the new situation.