The Park Decision

Civic ideas in a town meeting

5.SS.4.13 "Explain the concepts of popular sovereignty, majority rule with minority rights, respect for the individual, equality of opportunity, rule of law, and personal liberty."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the six civic ideas named in the passage, then underline a nearby detail that shows how each one works.

A Vote About the Park

1. On Saturday, Maya attends a town meeting about a new public park. The town council members were elected by residents. Government gets its authority from the people, an idea called popular sovereignty. At the meeting, every resident may share an idea before the council votes on park hours. This equal chance to take part, even if an idea is not chosen, shows equality of opportunity.

2. Most council members vote to close the park at dusk. A few residents hoped to watch the stars there. The residents can still speak against the decision and request another vote. This is majority rule with minority rights: more votes decide the rule, but those who disagree keep their rights. Listening to them without mocking their ideas shows respect for the individual.

3. After the vote, the mayor wants to hold a late-night concert in the park. The new town rule sets dusk as closing time, so the mayor must follow it too. This is the rule of law: officials and residents must obey the same laws. During park hours, people are free to walk, play, or sit quietly. This freedom to make personal choices while respecting laws and others' rights is personal liberty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the election and the chance to speak at the meeting show two different civic ideas?

2. How does the park-hours decision show both majority rule and minority rights?

3. What could people do at the meeting to show respect for the individual?

4. Why must the mayor follow the closing rule, and what choices can people still make at the park?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is deciding whether to allow bicycles on a downtown street on weekends. In four or five sentences, explain how the town could make the decision using at least three civic ideas from the passage, including how people who disagree should be treated.

ANSWER KEY

The Park Decision

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.4.13

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the six civic ideas named in the passage, then underline a nearby detail that shows how each one works. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the election and the chance to speak at the meeting show two different civic ideas?	**Electing council members shows popular sovereignty because government gets its authority from the people. Letting every resident share an idea shows equality of opportunity.**
2	How does the park-hours decision show both majority rule and minority rights?	**Most council members vote to close the park at dusk, but residents who disagree can still speak against the decision and request another vote.**
3	What could people do at the meeting to show respect for the individual?	**They could listen to residents who disagree without mocking their ideas.**
4	Why must the mayor follow the closing rule, and what choices can people still make at the park?	**The rule of law means the mayor must follow the rule too. Personal liberty lets people choose to walk, play, or sit quietly during park hours.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Residents elect council members to decide the bicycle rule, which shows popular sovereignty. The council invites all residents to share ideas, giving them equality of opportunity to take part. If most council members vote to allow bicycles, those who disagree can still speak out and request a change, showing majority rule with minority rights. Council members listen without insults, showing respect for the individual.

Accept explanations in students' own words that connect each civic idea to the passage. For Your Turn, accept either bicycle decision if the response applies at least three ideas accurately and explains how people who disagree are treated.