Rights in Action

Read how citizens use freedoms and meet responsibilities.

5.SS.4.9 "Identify some of the personal responsibilities and basic rights of individual freedoms that belong to American citizens."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline examples of citizens' rights and circle examples of their responsibilities to show the difference between the two.

A Meeting About the Park

1. On Saturday, Maya visits a neighborhood meeting about a new park. Some neighbors want a garden, while others want a basketball court. In the United States, citizens have the right to speak about public issues, even when they disagree. They may also gather peacefully to share ideas. These freedoms let neighbors take part in decisions that affect their community.

2. At the meeting, Mr. Lee listens without interrupting and waits for his turn to speak. Respecting other people's rights helps everyone be heard. Citizens also have responsibilities beyond meetings. They must obey laws, and eligible adults must serve on a jury if called, unless excused. Voting in elections is another important civic responsibility for citizens who are old enough to vote.

3. Later, the group writes a letter asking the town council to keep trees near the playground. Citizens have the right to ask their government to make changes. On Sunday, Maya's family visits a house of worship, while another family chooses not to. Freedom of religion protects both choices. Having rights means people can make choices, while responsibilities help protect the community they share.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which two rights can neighbors use when they disagree about the park?

2. What responsibility does Mr. Lee show by waiting his turn to speak? How does it help?

3. What right does the group's letter to the town council show?

4. Name two responsibilities from the passage that citizens have beyond meetings.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your community is considering a new rule for its swimming pool. Write three or four sentences explaining one right citizens could use to share their views and one responsibility they should follow in this situation.

ANSWER KEY

Rights in Action

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.4.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline examples of citizens' rights and circle examples of their responsibilities to show the difference between the two. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which two rights can neighbors use when they disagree about the park?	**They can speak about the issue and gather peacefully to share ideas.**
2	What responsibility does Mr. Lee show by waiting his turn to speak? How does it help?	**He respects other people's rights. Waiting his turn helps everyone be heard.**
3	What right does the group's letter to the town council show?	**Citizens have the right to ask their government to make changes.**
4	Name two responsibilities from the passage that citizens have beyond meetings.	**Citizens must obey laws. Eligible adults must serve on a jury if called, unless excused.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Citizens could speak at a public meeting about the proposed pool rule. I would explain why the pool should have a quiet hour for young swimmers. I would listen while others speak so their right to share ideas is respected.

For question 4, also accept voting as a civic responsibility for citizens who are old enough. For Your Turn, accept a fitting right and responsibility applied to the pool rule, with an explanation of each.