Hours for Everyone

How responsible volunteers can help change a public service

8.C.5 "Explain the importance of responsible participation by citizens in voluntary civil organizations to bring about social reform."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions that make the group's request trustworthy, circle one action that includes different voices, and number two steps that could help the trial become a lasting change.

The Open Hours Circle

1. At the Maple Street library, the doors close at 5 p.m. Many neighbors who work late cannot visit during the week. Residents form the Open Hours Circle, a voluntary group that anyone may join. The group cannot change library hours by itself because the library board sets the schedule. Instead, members meet at the community center and agree on a goal: ask the board to test one later evening each week. Working together lets residents share tasks and bring a clear request to the people who decide.

2. Members ask library workers about staffing and survey residents about when they could visit. They invite teens, older adults, and people who work different shifts, then record both support and worries about the plan. One member checks the survey totals before the group shares them. Another writes a short request that names the cost of extra staff time rather than hiding it. By listening, checking facts, and explaining costs honestly, the group makes a proposal the board can consider and the public can trust.

3. At a public meeting, members take turns explaining the need and answer questions without insulting people who disagree. The board approves a three-month trial of later hours, but that vote is only a first step. Group members help spread the new schedule, count visits during the added hour, and ask workers whether the change is manageable. They return to the board with results, including any problems. Responsible participation matters because it helps a voluntary group turn shared concerns into a fair, workable change that can last.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does forming a voluntary group help residents seek later library hours when they cannot change the schedule themselves?

2. How does inviting people with different schedules help the group seek a fair change?

3. Why should members check the survey totals and name the cost of extra staff time before speaking to the board?

4. Why do members keep working after the board approves the trial?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your town has no safe crossing near a busy playground. In four or five sentences, describe a voluntary group you could join or start, two responsible actions its members would take, and how those actions could help bring about a fair, lasting change.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions that make the group's request trustworthy, circle one action that includes different voices, and number two steps that could help the trial become a lasting change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does forming a voluntary group help residents seek later library hours when they cannot change the schedule themselves?	**The group lets residents share tasks and bring a clear, shared request to the library board, which sets the schedule.**
2	How does inviting people with different schedules help the group seek a fair change?	**It helps the group hear from people affected in different ways and include both support and worries in its proposal.**
3	Why should members check the survey totals and name the cost of extra staff time before speaking to the board?	**Accurate totals and honest costs make the request trustworthy and give the board useful information for its decision.**
4	Why do members keep working after the board approves the trial?	**They help people use the later hours and gather results, including problems, so the board can judge whether the change should last.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would start a volunteer Safe Routes group to request a marked crossing near the playground. We would ask families and nearby residents where crossing feels dangerous and record their answers accurately. We would share those findings with the city traffic office and listen to concerns about traffic and cost. If the city installs a crossing, we would check whether drivers stop and report problems so the city can improve it.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how shared work, honest evidence, inclusion, or follow-up helps bring about change. For the open task, look for a voluntary group, two responsible actions, and a clear link to a fair, lasting improvement.