Rules That Connect

How shared expectations help communities work

S.7.1 "Define social institutions as being made up of norms and values, and explain their importance to society."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two norms and circle the values they express, then number one sentence that explains why a social institution matters to society.

When Plans Change

1 On a smoky morning, students at Harbor High enter the gym instead of the outdoor field. A school is more than its building or the people inside it. It is a social institution, an enduring way a community organizes important work. Institutions are made up of norms, shared expectations for behavior, and values, shared beliefs about what matters. At Harbor High, students and staff do not invent these expectations each morning. Teachers plan lessons, students attend classes, and families expect the school to help young people learn. These patterns let people act together, even when plans change.

2 When smoke makes outdoor practice unsafe, Harbor High moves sports indoors and tells families why. One school norm is that staff report safety changes promptly; another is that students follow the revised schedule. These expectations express the value of safety. The school also provides a quiet room for students who cannot study at home. That choice reflects a commitment to fair access to learning. Because people know who will share updates and where students can go, families can plan their day. The school helps the community protect students while keeping education available.

3 Across town, a court serves a different need. When two neighbors disagree over a damaged fence, the court does not ask who is more popular. Its procedures give each side a chance to present evidence before a decision. That norm reflects a value of fairness. Courts cannot erase every conflict, but predictable procedures offer people a way to settle disputes without threats or retaliation. Schools and courts have different jobs, yet both connect everyday rules to shared values. This connection helps people cooperate with strangers and trust that important needs will be handled in a consistent way.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Using Harbor High as an example, define a social institution in terms of norms and values.

2. Which Harbor High norm expresses the value of safety, and how does that norm help families?

3. How does the court's procedure connect a norm to a value, and why does that matter beyond the courtroom?

4. How do the school and the court use predictable norms to help people cooperate, even though they serve different needs?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a social institution other than a school or court. In four or five sentences, name one of its norms, identify a value the norm expresses, and explain why the institution matters to society.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two norms and circle the values they express, then number one sentence that explains why a social institution matters to society. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Using Harbor High as an example, define a social institution in terms of norms and values.	**A social institution is an enduring way a community organizes important work through shared expectations and beliefs. At Harbor High, norms such as attending class support the value placed on learning.**
2	Which Harbor High norm expresses the value of safety, and how does that norm help families?	**Staff report safety changes promptly. Knowing about changes helps families plan their day.**
3	How does the court's procedure connect a norm to a value, and why does that matter beyond the courtroom?	**Giving each side a chance to present evidence is a norm that reflects fairness. Predictable procedures help people settle disputes without threats or retaliation.**
4	How do the school and the court use predictable norms to help people cooperate, even though they serve different needs?	**The school's norms help families respond to changes while students continue learning. The court's procedures help people settle disputes fairly. In both cases, shared expectations let people plan and work with others.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A hospital is a social institution that organizes care for people who are ill or injured. One norm is that medical staff keep patient information private except when sharing it is necessary for care or required by law. This norm reflects the value of respecting patients' dignity. Privacy helps people feel able to seek treatment and share information, which supports the health of the community.

Accept other passage-based norms and values when the student explains their connection and social importance. For Part 3, accept any appropriate institution other than a school or court if the response connects a plausible norm, a value, and a benefit to society.