Service or Policy?

Sort public actions by their main purpose.

USG.1.1 "Define and distinguish between civic life, political life, and private life, and describe the activities of individuals in each of these spheres."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CIVIC LIFE

Civic life includes working with others to meet community needs directly. The goal is not to change a government decision.

Teaching neighbors to fix bicycles at a weekend workshop.

POLITICAL LIFE

Political life includes trying to influence who runs government or what government decides.

Joining a campaign to elect a county sheriff.

1 SORT

8 items

In Part 1, circle CIVIC or POLITICAL for each activity; in Part 2, choose two items and explain what helped you sort each one.

1.	1. Collecting winter coats for families at a shelter	CIVIC POLITICAL
2.	2. Volunteering to clean trash from a public beach	CIVIC POLITICAL
3.	3. Asking a state legislator to vote for a school funding law	CIVIC POLITICAL
4.	4. Urging people to vote for a ballot measure	CIVIC POLITICAL
5.	5. Tutoring children at a free after-school program	CIVIC POLITICAL
6.	6. Speaking at a city council meeting in support of a proposed bus fare increase	CIVIC POLITICAL
7.	7. Serving meals at a community food pantry	CIVIC POLITICAL
8.	8. Volunteering at a library to help residents sign up for cards	CIVIC POLITICAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of a civic action and one new example of a political action.

CIVIC _____

POLITICAL _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one issue and write two sentences: one describing a civic action and one describing a political action that address it.

ANSWER KEY

Service or Policy?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. Collecting winter coats for families at a shelter	**CIVIC**	The activity directly meets a community need.
2	2. Volunteering to clean trash from a public beach	**CIVIC**	The volunteer work directly improves a shared space.
3	3. Asking a state legislator to vote for a school funding law	**POLITICAL**	The request seeks to influence a government vote.
4	4. Urging people to vote for a ballot measure	**POLITICAL**	The activity seeks to influence an election result.
5	5. Tutoring children at a free after-school program	**CIVIC**	The tutoring directly serves children in the community.
6	6. Speaking at a city council meeting in support of a proposed bus fare increase	**POLITICAL**	The speaker seeks to influence a government decision.
7	7. Serving meals at a community food pantry	**CIVIC**	The activity directly provides food to community members.
8	8. Volunteering at a library to help residents sign up for cards	**CIVIC**	The volunteer directly helps residents use a community resource.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CIVIC**: Hosting a free community art class for children.
- **POLITICAL**: Writing to the governor to ask for a change in state tax law.

Challenge: To address unsafe streets, I could organize neighbors to give pedestrians reflective bands. I could ask the city council to lower speed limits on busy roads.

For Part 2, students should name each activity's goal, not just repeat its category. Some actions can involve both spheres, so sort these items by the immediate goal stated.