

Civic Action in Practice

Analyze how residents use non-electoral civic participation to seek change.

12.G4e "Citizens participate in civic life through volunteerism and advocacy, including efforts such as contacting elected officials, signing/organizing petitions, protesting, canvassing, and participating in/organizing boycotts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Mark six civic methods: volunteer service, contacting officials, petitioning, canvassing, protesting, and boycotting.

Parking Fees and Public Action

- ① In this fictional case, a company operating a city-owned garage raises parking fees near a college. Students and workers form the Access Coalition to seek clearer prices and a review of the city's contract with the company. Volunteers staff an information table, explain the issue, and collect contact details from people who choose to share them. Members email two city council members about the increase and request a public meeting. They also organize a petition asking the council to examine the contract and publish its findings.
- ② Before the meeting, volunteers canvass nearby blocks. They give residents fact sheets and ask whether they want to sign the petition or speak at the meeting. The coalition holds a peaceful sidewalk protest outside city hall. Participants display signs calling for transparent prices. Some also deliver testimony during the council's public-comment period. The protest draws attention, while testimony puts views into the meeting record. Neither guarantees a policy change. Organizers check applicable procedures and respect people who decline to participate.
- ③ Some drivers organize a two-week boycott of the company's garage, choosing other parking options. They seek to pressure the company to lower fees and post prices clearly. Organizers track the company's response. Their target differs from the petition's: one pressures a business, while the other asks officials to review a contract. Together, these actions illustrate volunteer service and advocacy through different channels. Each method has costs and limits, and its usefulness depends on the goal and the decision maker's authority.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Compare the information-table work with the emails to council members. What was the purpose of each method?

2 How did the petition connect residents' views to a decision maker? Identify its recipient and its request.

3 What company action was the boycott meant to influence, and what change did organizers seek?

4 Explain how canvassing functioned as advocacy, not simply as sharing information.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

For a fictional community issue, propose three methods from Part 1 in four sentences. Identify whom each method reaches and explain how they work toward one specific change.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Mark six civic methods: volunteer service, contacting officials, petitioning, canvassing, protesting, and boycotting. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare the information-table work with the emails to council members. What was the purpose of each method?	The information table explained the issue and collected contact information. The emails described the fee increase to council members and requested a public meeting.
2	How did the petition connect residents' views to a decision maker? Identify its recipient and its request.	The petition was directed to the city council. It asked the council to examine the parking contract and publish its findings.
3	What company action was the boycott meant to influence, and what change did organizers seek?	The boycott was meant to pressure the parking company. Organizers wanted it to lower fees and post prices clearly.
4	Explain how canvassing functioned as advocacy, not simply as sharing information.	Canvassers gave residents information, but they also asked residents to take civic action by signing the petition or speaking at the council meeting.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

To seek later library hours, volunteers could staff an information table for library users. They could canvass nearby homes to invite residents to sign a petition requesting two later weeknight closings. The group could email the petition to the officials responsible for library hours and funding. These actions gather concerns, build support, and make a specific request to decision makers.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately distinguish the civic methods, their intended audiences, and their purposes. For Part 3, accept varied local issues and methods if the response includes three methods, identifies appropriate targets, and explains a specific, realistic goal.