

From Address to Action

Trace a policy from executive proposal to implementation and revision.

12.G5a "Each level of government has its own process of shaping, implementing, amending, and enforcing public policy. Customarily the executive branch will outline its plan and agenda in an executive address to the legislative body."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle executive addresses. Label shaping (S), implementing (I), amending (A), and enforcing (E) policy.

Riverton's Heat Plan

- ① Imagine Riverton's mayor proposing a heat-safety plan in an annual address to the city council. The plan would fund shade at bus stops, establish cooling centers, and plant trees. The address announces an agenda; it does not enact an ordinance. Residents can compare its promises with budgets, meeting records, and later votes. This example follows a fictional city charter requiring council adoption and mayoral consideration. Local structures and legal powers vary.
- ② Council members introduce and revise the ordinance. A committee holds hearings, examines costs, and recommends changes before the full council votes. The mayor may sign or veto under the charter. After adoption, departments implement the plan: parks staff plant trees and emergency managers operate cooling centers. Authorized inspectors enforce requirements by checking compliance and using available enforcement procedures. Implementation puts policy into operation; enforcement seeks compliance with its rules. The council can later amend the ordinance as evidence or priorities change, following the required lawmaking process.
- ③ Governors customarily present priorities to state legislatures in State of the State addresses; presidents present priorities to Congress in State of the Union addresses. Legislatures consider bills and budgets, while executives administer laws through agencies. Courts may review legality. These related roles do not make every level's process identical. Nor does every policy require a new law: executives and agencies may act within existing authority. Informed citizens identify the responsible government, follow decisions and agency rules, and examine implementation, amendments, and enforcement results.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Why does the passage say that the mayor's annual address does not create policy by itself?

2 What are three ways Riverton's city council can shape the proposed heat policy before it is adopted?

3 Name one city body that would implement Riverton's heat plan and one group that could enforce a rule connected to it.

4 How do the governor's State of the State address and the president's State of the Union address serve similar roles, and whom does each address?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

For a fictional city using Riverton's process, write five short sentences tracing a policy through executive proposal, legislative shaping, implementation, enforcement, and amendment. Identify the responsible public bodies.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle executive addresses. Label shaping (S), implementing (I), amending (A), and enforcing (E) policy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the passage say that the mayor's annual address does not create policy by itself?	The speech announces an agenda. In this fictional city, enacting the ordinance requires council adoption and mayoral consideration under the charter.
2	What are three ways Riverton's city council can shape the proposed heat policy before it is adopted?	Council members may introduce or revise an ordinance, a committee may hold a hearing and recommend changes, and the full council may vote.
3	Name one city body that would implement Riverton's heat plan and one group that could enforce a rule connected to it.	Parks staff or emergency managers could implement the plan. Authorized inspectors could enforce its requirements.
4	How do the governor's State of the State address and the president's State of the Union address serve similar roles, and whom does each address?	Both outline executive plans and priorities for a legislature. A governor addresses the state legislature, while a president addresses Congress.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The mayor proposes safer school crossings in an address to the council. A council committee reviews the plan, and the council adopts an ordinance that the mayor signs. Transportation staff install signs and paint crossings. Authorized officers enforce applicable traffic rules. The council later amends the ordinance through the required process after reviewing crash data.

Accept accurate wording that distinguishes an executive agenda from legislative adoption and identifies the appropriate policy stage. For the open response, accept plausible bodies and procedures for the chosen level of government, provided all five stages are present.