Laws That Help

Read how elected officials make laws for a town and a state.

2.P.2.1.C "Explain the purposes of laws and government in the community and state, examining the role of elected officials in making laws."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the two elected groups, underline how each law helps people, and write 1 by the town law and 2 by the state law.

A Park Path and a School Bus

1. At Pine Park, dogs once ran across the path. Some people were scared, and walkers had to step aside. Neighbors asked their town council for help. The council members are elected by town voters to speak for them.

2. The council listened and voted for a local law: dogs must be on leashes in the park. This law helps people share the path safely. The town government also puts up signs so people know the rule.

3. State voters elect lawmakers, too. These lawmakers make laws for the whole state, not just one town. One state law tells drivers behind a school bus to stop when its red lights flash. That law helps keep children safe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did the town council vote for the park law?

2. What did the elected council members do to make the park law?

3. How do elected state lawmakers help keep children safe near a school bus?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a different problem in a place people share in your town. Write two sentences: tell what law your elected town council could vote on, and explain how it would help people.

ANSWER KEY

Laws That Help

GRADE 2 · 2.P.2.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the two elected groups, underline how each law helps people, and write 1 by the town law and 2 by the state law. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the town council vote for the park law?	**Loose dogs scared people and got in walkers' way. The law helps people share the path safely.**
2	What did the elected council members do to make the park law?	**They listened to neighbors and voted for a law that says dogs must be on leashes in the park.**
3	How do elected state lawmakers help keep children safe near a school bus?	**They make a state law that tells drivers behind a school bus to stop when its red lights flash.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town council could vote for a law that bans leaving trash at the playground. This law would help keep the playground clean for everyone.

For Your Turn, accept a different local problem, a law the town council could vote on, and a clear explanation of how the law would help people.