Who Makes It Happen?

Follow a community idea from citizens to government action.

3.C.1 "Analyze the purpose of government and traits of responsible citizens. Read and describe the principle of a constitutional republic as government by the people..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline ways people guide government. Circle what leaders or government workers do to serve people.

A Safer Walk to the Library

1. On her way to the library, Maya sees cars speed past a busy crossing. She tells her neighbors, and they speak at a city council meeting. Voters choose the council members. The council can make local rules, such as a lower speed limit on that street. City workers put up signs to help drivers follow the rule. People have a voice, and leaders act for them.

2. Oklahoma voters also choose state legislators. These leaders make laws for the whole state. The governor leads state workers who carry out those laws. State court justices decide cases about what laws mean and whether laws follow the Oklahoma Constitution. That constitution is a written plan for state government. The United States Constitution is a written plan for the national government.

3. At the library crossing, new signs and road work cost money. Local taxes help pay for those services. State taxes help pay for services such as public schools. Citizens can help in other ways, too. They can vote for leaders, speak politely at meetings, and work with neighbors. In a constitutional republic, people choose representatives to make decisions, and written constitutions set rules for government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Maya and her neighbors help bring a problem to their local leaders?

2. How did the city council and city workers each help make the crossing safer?

3. How are the jobs of state legislators, the governor, and state court justices different?

4. Why do taxes matter for both the library crossing and public schools?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Your neighborhood park needs more shade. Write three sentences explaining how people could ask for a change, what local government could do, and how the change could be paid for.

ANSWER KEY

Who Makes It Happen?

GRADE 3 · 3.C.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline ways people guide government. Circle what leaders or government workers do to serve people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Maya and her neighbors help bring a problem to their local leaders?	**Maya told her neighbors about the crossing, and they spoke at a city council meeting.**
2	How did the city council and city workers each help make the crossing safer?	**The council could make a local speed rule, and city workers put up signs to help drivers follow it.**
3	How are the jobs of state legislators, the governor, and state court justices different?	**Legislators make state laws. The governor leads workers who carry them out. Court justices decide cases about the laws.**
4	Why do taxes matter for both the library crossing and public schools?	**Local taxes help pay for crossing signs and road work. State taxes help pay for public schools.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbors could ask the city council to add trees to the park. The council could choose to buy trees, and city workers could plant them. Local taxes could help pay for the trees.

Accept answers that distinguish citizens' voices from leaders' decisions and workers' actions. For the open task, the proposed shade solution may differ, but it should include a way for people to ask, a local government action, and a way to pay for it.