A Safer Crossing

Read how neighbors choose a proposal for their town.

3.P.1.1.B "Use democratic processes to consider and propose actions to address authentic, real-world problems in the community and state."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the problem and circle the two ideas people discuss. Then number where people share ideas, vote, and send a proposal in the order those steps happen.

A Choice for Oak Street

1. On Oak Street, people walk from the bus stop to the library. Oak Street is a state road, and the nearest marked crossing is two blocks away. Some people cross near the bus stop instead. After a neighbor reported several close calls with cars, the town held a public meeting. Families, bus riders, and shop owners came to discuss how to make the trip safer.

2. At the meeting, a bus rider asked for a marked crossing near the stop. A shop owner worried that a new crossing might slow cars beside the stores. Another neighbor suggested moving the bus stop closer to the crossing already there. People asked questions about walking distance, traffic, and cost. The meeting leader wrote both ideas and each concern where everyone could see them.

3. Each person at the meeting got one vote on which idea to send to the state transportation office for study. More people chose a marked crossing near the bus stop than moving the stop. The group also included the shop owner's concern in its letter. State workers would check traffic and road rules before any change. The vote gave the town a proposal, not permission to paint a crossing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did the meeting leader write both ideas and each concern where everyone could see them?

2. What two ideas did the neighbors consider before voting?

3. Which idea got more votes, and what concern did the group include in its letter?

4. Why did the group send its choice to the state transportation office instead of painting a crossing right away?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine the trash cans at a town park fill up every weekend. In three or four sentences, suggest two possible fixes, explain how neighbors could choose fairly, and tell whom they would ask to act.

ANSWER KEY

A Safer Crossing

GRADE 3 · 3.P.1.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the problem and circle the two ideas people discuss. Then number where people share ideas, vote, and send a proposal in the order those steps happen. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the meeting leader write both ideas and each concern where everyone could see them?	**So people could consider both ideas and the concerns before voting.**
2	What two ideas did the neighbors consider before voting?	**Add a marked crossing near the bus stop or move the bus stop closer to the marked crossing.**
3	Which idea got more votes, and what concern did the group include in its letter?	**A marked crossing near the bus stop got more votes. The letter included the shop owner's concern that it might slow cars.**
4	Why did the group send its choice to the state transportation office instead of painting a crossing right away?	**Oak Street is a state road, and state workers must check traffic and road rules before any change.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbors could ask for more trash cans or for the current cans to be emptied more often. They could talk about which idea costs less and keeps the park cleaner. Each neighbor at a meeting could vote once after hearing both ideas. The group could send the winning idea to the town parks office for review.

Accept answers that identify both choices, the vote's result, and the concern included in the letter. For Your Turn, accept reasonable fixes and a fair way to choose, with a town office or other appropriate group asked to act.