Whose Decision?

Read how neighbors help solve town and state problems.

3.P.1.1 "Demonstrate an understanding of the virtue of civil discourse to analyze and address real-world problems. Explain how people make decisions in a constitutional republic, using examples from their community and state..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the town and state problems, circle one respectful way people share ideas, and write 1 beside the town decision and 2 beside the state decision.

Two Problems, Two Decisions

1. After rain, cars splash water onto the sidewalk by Cedar Park. Some children step into the street to get around deep puddles. Neighbors want the walk fixed, but they have different ideas. Mina wants a new drain. Leo thinks the town should raise the sidewalk. They agree that children need a safe path. At a public meeting, they listen without interrupting and ask each other questions.

2. The neighbors tell the elected town council what they have seen. Other people at the meeting share ideas, too. Council members ask town workers which fix would work and what it would cost. Then the council votes to pay for a drain. Town workers put it in. In a constitutional republic, people elect leaders to make public decisions. People can also speak to those leaders before a vote.

3. The state has a different problem. A bridge used by many towns needs repairs. State transportation workers check the bridge and plan safe repairs. People write to their elected state lawmakers about why the bridge matters. The lawmakers discuss how to use state money and vote on a budget for road and bridge work. The town council cannot make that state budget choice. People can still share their views with respect.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Mina and Leo disagree without being rude?

2. Why did the town council ask workers about the possible fixes before voting?

3. How could people help state lawmakers decide about the bridge?

4. Why could the town council vote for a drain but not choose the bridge budget?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a real problem in your community or state that is not in the passage. In three or four sentences, name the problem, suggest an action, explain who could decide, and tell how people could share ideas respectfully before a decision.

ANSWER KEY

Whose Decision?

GRADE 3 · 3.P.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the town and state problems, circle one respectful way people share ideas, and write 1 beside the town decision and 2 beside the state decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Mina and Leo disagree without being rude?	**They listened without interrupting, asked questions, and agreed that children needed a safe path.**
2	Why did the town council ask workers about the possible fixes before voting?	**The workers could tell the council which fix would work and what it would cost.**
3	How could people help state lawmakers decide about the bridge?	**They could write to lawmakers about why the bridge matters and share their views respectfully.**
4	Why could the town council vote for a drain but not choose the bridge budget?	**The drain was a town decision, but state lawmakers decide the state budget for road and bridge work.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town park has litter near the picnic tables. The town council could vote to add more trash cans. Before the vote, neighbors could tell council members where the cans would help most. They could listen to people who worry about the cost and speak kindly.

Accept other passage-based explanations for the short answers. For Your Turn, accept a plausible community or state problem, an action, an appropriate decision-maker, and a respectful way for people to share ideas.