Who Leads Here?

Compare three governments and the ways people take part.

3.P.2.1.B "Describe the basic structure of government at the local, state, and Tribal levels, including the importance of citizen participation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the leaders or groups that make decisions, circle one way people share ideas with leaders in each paragraph, and write L, S, or T beside each paragraph for local, state, or Tribal government.

Whose Job Is It?

1. A busy street runs past the town library. The city council, a group of elected local leaders, makes rules and plans for the city. A mayor helps lead the city government and carries out its work. Families ask the council for a safer crossing near the library. At a public meeting, people share ideas about where a crosswalk could go. Their voices help leaders understand the problem.

2. A bridge over a river connects several towns. The state government can plan and care for state roads and bridges. State lawmakers make laws and decide how state money is used. The governor leads the state government as it carries out those laws. People can write to their state lawmakers about the bridge. Their messages can help lawmakers learn what needs to be fixed.

3. A Tribal nation has its own government. Its leaders make decisions for their nation, not as part of a city or state government. Each Tribal nation chooses how to set up its government. Some have an elected Tribal council that makes rules and a chairperson who helps lead. When people from that Tribal nation speak at a council meeting about a path to a community center, leaders can hear what matters to them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do the city council and the people at the meeting each help with the crossing near the library?

2. How are the jobs of state lawmakers and the governor different?

3. How is a Tribal nation's government separate from city and state governments? Name one way its leaders may be organized.

4. Why does speaking at a Tribal council meeting matter, and how is it like writing to state lawmakers?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a community need that is not in the passage. In three sentences, name a local, state, or Tribal government and a leader or group, explain what it could do, and tell how people could take part and why their voices matter.

ANSWER KEY

Who Leads Here?

GRADE 3 · 3.P.2.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the leaders or groups that make decisions, circle one way people share ideas with leaders in each paragraph, and write L, S, or T beside each paragraph for local, state, or Tribal government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do the city council and the people at the meeting each help with the crossing near the library?	**The council makes city rules and plans. People share ideas about the crossing so leaders understand the problem.**
2	How are the jobs of state lawmakers and the governor different?	**Lawmakers make laws and decide how state money is used. The governor leads the state government as it carries out laws.**
3	How is a Tribal nation's government separate from city and state governments? Name one way its leaders may be organized.	**It makes decisions for its own nation, not as part of a city or state government. Some Tribal nations have an elected council and a chairperson.**
4	Why does speaking at a Tribal council meeting matter, and how is it like writing to state lawmakers?	**Both ways of taking part help leaders learn what people need. The council can hear about the path, and state lawmakers can learn what needs fixing on the bridge.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town needs more trash cans in the park. The city council could plan where to put them and pay for them. People could share ideas at a council meeting so leaders know which spots need cans most.

Accept accurate descriptions in the student's own words. For Your Turn, accept any new, plausible need with a matching level of government, a suitable leader or group, and a clear reason participation helps.