Keeping It Going

How civic responsibilities support a constitutional republic

4.C.1.3.B "Analyze how fulfilling one's civic responsibilities (e.g., voting, jury and military service, paying taxes) is necessary for the health and continuity of a constitutional republic."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each civic responsibility named in the passage. Underline words that explain how doing that responsibility helps the republic keep working.

More Than One Crossing Light

1. On a rainy morning, Maya waits for the crossing light near her school. In her town, adults vote for council members who decide how to spend town money. Voters can ask candidates about safer streets and choose leaders who listen. In a constitutional republic, people elect leaders, but a constitution sets rules those leaders must follow. Regular elections let people replace leaders who do not serve them well.

2. After the election, the council pays for a crossing guard and repairs the broken light. Much of the town's money comes from taxes that people and businesses pay. If too many people did not pay taxes they owe, the town could struggle to pay for services and keep roads safe. Paying taxes helps elected leaders carry out plans and keeps shared services working year after year.

3. Civic duties matter beyond Maya's street. When eligible people answer a call for jury service, they help courts decide cases using evidence and the law, rather than a leader's wishes. In the United States, people volunteer to join the military. Those who serve help defend the country and its Constitution. If people stopped doing these duties, courts and national defense would have a harder time protecting the republic.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can voting help people make sure elected leaders listen to them?

2. Why could the town have trouble keeping streets safe if too many people did not pay the taxes they owe?

3. How does answering a call for jury service help keep a leader from deciding a court case based only on what the leader wants?

4. Why does the passage say military service helps protect the republic?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a town wants to keep its public library open for years. In three or four sentences, explain how two civic responsibilities from the passage could help the town and its republic, and what might happen if people ignored one of them.

ANSWER KEY

Keeping It Going

GRADE 4 · 4.C.1.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each civic responsibility named in the passage. Underline words that explain how doing that responsibility helps the republic keep working. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can voting help people make sure elected leaders listen to them?	**Voters can ask candidates about issues and replace leaders who do not serve them well.**
2	Why could the town have trouble keeping streets safe if too many people did not pay the taxes they owe?	**The town could lack money to pay for services such as a crossing guard and light repairs.**
3	How does answering a call for jury service help keep a leader from deciding a court case based only on what the leader wants?	**Jurors help courts decide cases using evidence and the law instead of a leader's wishes.**
4	Why does the passage say military service helps protect the republic?	**People who serve help defend the country and its Constitution.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Voters could choose council members who listen to ideas about the public library. People could pay the taxes they owe so the council has money it can use to keep the library open. Voting lets neighbors replace leaders who ignore their needs. If many people stopped paying taxes, the council might not have enough money to keep the library open each year.

Accept other passage-based explanations that connect each responsibility to the republic's ability to keep working. For the open task, look for two distinct responsibilities, a library example, and a reasonable result of neglecting one responsibility.