The Ten-Park Plan

How discussion and compromise can shape a law

4.C.1.3.C "Describe how our nation's constitutional republic relies on civil discourse, thoughtful decision-making, and compromise to make laws."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a respectful exchange, circle information lawmakers use to decide, number the two different positions 1 and 2, and box the compromise.

A Bill for Refill Stations

1. Our nation is a constitutional republic. People elect members of Congress to speak for them when making national laws. Imagine Congress considers a bill to put water refill stations in ten national parks. Visitors could fill bottles instead of throwing away so many plastic ones. Some families like the idea, but others wonder what the stations would cost. Lawmakers must listen before deciding.

2. At a public meeting, a park worker explains that empty bottles fill trash cans. A visitor asks whether money for stations might leave less for trail repairs. The worker listens and answers without insulting the visitor. Members of Congress hear both views and ask for cost estimates. This respectful exchange helps lawmakers consider both the possible benefit and the cost.

3. After reviewing the estimates, some lawmakers want stations in every park. Others want no stations until costs are clearer. They agree on a bill for ten parks and a report that tracks trash and costs at those parks. The House and Senate must pass the same bill, and the president must sign it for it to become law. Their compromise lets them test the plan while checking its results.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the worker's response to the visitor help lawmakers consider the bill?

2. Why did members of Congress ask for cost estimates before deciding?

3. How does the ten-park plan compromise between the two positions?

4. Why can't one member of Congress make this plan a law alone?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine Congress debates a law to add shaded benches at national parks. In four sentences, describe two different views, a respectful way to discuss them, and a compromise that uses information to help decide.

ANSWER KEY

The Ten-Park Plan

GRADE 4 · 4.C.1.3.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a respectful exchange, circle information lawmakers use to decide, number the two different positions 1 and 2, and box the compromise. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the worker's response to the visitor help lawmakers consider the bill?	**The worker listened and answered respectfully, so lawmakers could consider the visitor's concern about money for trail repairs.**
2	Why did members of Congress ask for cost estimates before deciding?	**The estimates would help them weigh the cost of stations against the possible benefit of less bottle trash.**
3	How does the ten-park plan compromise between the two positions?	**It puts stations in some parks, not every park, and includes a report to track trash and costs.**
4	Why can't one member of Congress make this plan a law alone?	**The House and Senate must pass the same bill, and the president must sign it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Some lawmakers want shaded benches in every national park, but others worry about the cost. They listen politely as park workers share estimates for building and caring for the benches. They agree to add benches at five parks and record the costs and how often visitors use them. This compromise tests the idea while checking whether it helps visitors.

Accept answers that explain the role of respectful discussion, cost information, or compromise in the proposed law. For Your Turn, look for four sentences that include both views, respectful discussion, and an information-based compromise.