Creekside Decisions

Speaking up and making decisions across communities

4.P.1.1.B "Use a range of democratic procedures to discuss and make decisions about real-world problems in the community, region, and nation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline ways people share their views, and circle ways a group reaches a decision. Look for these steps in the town, the region, and the nation.

What Should Happen at Willow Creek?

1. After a storm, wrappers and bottles covered the bank of Willow Creek. The creek runs through three towns, so one town could not fix the problem alone. At a town meeting, residents took turns speaking about where trash gathered. A student suggested more public trash cans. The town council heard the comments, asked questions, and voted to put cans near the creek path.

2. Because the creek crossed town lines, leaders from all three towns met at a regional meeting. They asked families in each town to complete a survey about litter along the creek. Some families wanted cleanup days, while others wanted signs asking people to carry trash home. Each town sent a representative to discuss the survey results. The representatives agreed to try both ideas for two months, then ask residents what worked.

3. The students also wondered how to cut down on plastic trash across the nation. They wrote to their elected members of Congress and asked them to consider a law about plastic packaging. In their letters, they shared what they had seen at Willow Creek. Members of Congress can discuss proposed national laws and vote on them. A letter does not make a law, but it gives lawmakers a view from their voters.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did residents share their ideas at the town meeting, and how did the council make its decision?

2. Why did leaders ask families in each town to complete a survey instead of hearing from just one town?

3. How did the representatives use the survey ideas to make a regional decision?

4. What could the students' letters do about a national law, and who could vote on that law?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A busy road near your school needs a safer crossing. Write three or four sentences naming two ways neighbors could share ideas, explaining how local leaders could make a fair decision, and telling how people could check whether the plan worked.

ANSWER KEY

Creekside Decisions

GRADE 4 · 4.P.1.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline ways people share their views, and circle ways a group reaches a decision. Look for these steps in the town, the region, and the nation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did residents share their ideas at the town meeting, and how did the council make its decision?	**Residents took turns speaking. The council heard their comments, asked questions, and voted to put trash cans near the path.**
2	Why did leaders ask families in each town to complete a survey instead of hearing from just one town?	**The creek crossed all three towns, so the leaders needed to hear from families in each one.**
3	How did the representatives use the survey ideas to make a regional decision?	**They discussed the results and agreed to try both cleanup days and signs for two months before asking residents what worked.**
4	What could the students' letters do about a national law, and who could vote on that law?	**The letters could share the students' views with lawmakers. Members of Congress could vote on a national law.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a public meeting, neighbors could suggest places for a safer crossing. A survey could ask families where they cross the road. Local leaders could discuss both sets of ideas and vote on a plan. After the plan is tried, families could report whether crossing feels safer.

Accept other passage-supported explanations that connect public input to a group decision. For Your Turn, accept different ways to gather views if the response includes two methods, a fair decision by local leaders, and a way to check the result.