Rules for Everyone

How a town makes a rule while protecting rights

4.P.2.1.C "Examine the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, including how laws are made in a democratic society and are used to protect individual rights."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline ways residents help shape the rule, circle the council action that makes it a rule, and number two statements that show how the groups' rights are protected.

Sharing the Town Park

1. On Saturday, two groups ask to use the town park for meetings. One group wants a garden. The other wants to discuss bus routes. Both need the same covered area. Some neighbors ask the town council for a clear rule. In a democracy, people can share concerns with elected leaders. Voters choose council members to make local rules for the community.

2. At an open council meeting, residents explain what they need. Council members discuss a proposal: groups may reserve the covered area in the order they ask, with a limit of two hours per group. The council votes, and most members vote yes, so the proposal becomes a town rule. The rule helps groups share a space instead of letting one group claim it all day.

3. The U.S. Constitution protects rights, including freedom of speech. This means the council cannot refuse a group's request just because its members dislike the group's ideas. The same reservation rule must apply to both groups. The council can set fair limits on how long each group uses the covered area, but it cannot use a rule to silence views it does not like.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do residents and voters help shape the town's rules?

2. How does the council's proposal become a town rule?

3. How does the reservation rule help both groups use the covered area?

4. Which right stops the council from rejecting a group because it dislikes the group's ideas? How must the council treat that group?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two groups want to meet in the town recreation center, and some council members dislike one group's views. In three or four sentences, propose a fair rule, explain how residents and elected leaders could make it, and tell how it protects the groups' freedom of speech.

ANSWER KEY

Rules for Everyone

GRADE 4 · 4.P.2.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline ways residents help shape the rule, circle the council action that makes it a rule, and number two statements that show how the groups' rights are protected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do residents and voters help shape the town's rules?	**Residents ask for a rule and explain their needs at a meeting. Voters choose the council members who make local rules.**
2	How does the council's proposal become a town rule?	**Council members discuss the proposal and vote. It becomes a rule when most members vote yes.**
3	How does the reservation rule help both groups use the covered area?	**Both groups can ask for a reservation in the same order, and each can use the area for up to two hours.**
4	Which right stops the council from rejecting a group because it dislikes the group's ideas? How must the council treat that group?	**Freedom of speech. The council must apply the same reservation rule to that group.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Residents could ask the town council to let groups reserve the meeting room for one hour at a time. At an open meeting, residents could share their ideas, and council members could vote on the rule. Every group could request a time, even if council members disagree with its views. This rule would protect freedom of speech while helping groups share the room.

Accept fair rules other than a one-hour limit if they apply to both groups. The response should show a role for residents and elected leaders and explain that a group's views cannot be the reason it is denied access.