After the Flood

How local government helps a community

5.C.3.4.C "the purpose of government"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one government action in each paragraph. Circle the words that explain how each action helps people.

A Town Responds to a Flood

1. After heavy rain, water rushes over a bridge near the town library. Drivers cannot see where the road ends. The town government closes the bridge and puts up warning signs. Workers direct cars to another street until the water drops and the bridge is checked. A family may want to cross right away, but the rule helps keep everyone on the road safe.

2. The same flood muddies the town's water supply. The public water department tests the water and sets up a place where families can fill bottles with safe drinking water. Town taxes help pay the workers and supplies. A single household cannot test every pipe or serve the whole town. By organizing this service, the government helps protect people's health.

3. At the public shelter, a city rule says staff cannot refuse someone because of that person's race or religion. The rule protects equal treatment. Later, the town council asks residents where repairs should begin. Residents share ideas at a public meeting, and council members decide how to spend public money. Government makes choices for the community, not just for one family.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the town government close the bridge instead of letting drivers choose whether to cross?

2. What purpose does the water department serve by testing the water and offering safe drinking water?

3. How does the shelter rule show a purpose of government?

4. Why does the town council ask residents about repairs before deciding how to spend public money?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that the lights along the paths in a neighborhood park are broken. Write three or four sentences proposing one action the local government could take. Explain what purpose it would serve, how it would help people, and how neighbors could share their views.

ANSWER KEY

After the Flood

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.4.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one government action in each paragraph. Circle the words that explain how each action helps people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the town government close the bridge instead of letting drivers choose whether to cross?	**The closure keeps drivers safe when water hides the edge of the road.**
2	What purpose does the water department serve by testing the water and offering safe drinking water?	**It provides a service that protects the health of people across the town.**
3	How does the shelter rule show a purpose of government?	**It protects equal treatment by stopping staff from refusing people because of their race or religion.**
4	Why does the town council ask residents about repairs before deciding how to spend public money?	**The council uses residents' ideas to make a decision for the community.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The city could repair the lights along the park paths. This would serve the government's purpose of keeping public places safe. People could see where they are walking after dark and avoid tripping. Neighbors could send letters to the city describing which paths need lights most.

Accept passage-based explanations that connect each action to safety, public health, equal treatment, or community decision-making. For Your Turn, accept a different practical action if the student explains its public purpose and how neighbors could share their views.