Rights in Action

Find democratic principles and civic virtues in state and national settings

5.P.2.1.A "Explain democratic principles in historic documents by identifying examples of civic virtues and principles at work in state and national settings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell what people may do under each historic document. Circle actions that show people using a right or showing a civic virtue.

When People Speak Up

1. In 1776, North Carolina's Declaration of Rights said that political power comes from the people. It also said people may gather to discuss the common good and ask lawmakers to fix problems. Imagine neighbors meeting to ask state lawmakers for safer crossings near schools. Their meeting puts the document's words into action. The neighbors do not make the law themselves, but they can tell their representatives what needs to change.

2. At the national level, the First Amendment was added to the U.S. Constitution in 1791. It protects the right to speak freely and the right to ask the government to fix a problem. Imagine a group writing to Congress about litter in a national park. Their letter asks federal lawmakers to act. The group uses its voice rather than waiting quietly for someone else to notice the problem.

3. A document gives people rights, but people decide how to use them. At the state meeting, neighbors take turns speaking and listen to families who disagree about the safest crossing. Before sending the national letter, the park group checks facts about the litter and invites others to sign. Respect and honesty are civic virtues: habits that help people work for the common good, even when they want different solutions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does North Carolina's Declaration of Rights say about where political power comes from? How does speaking to representatives put that idea to work?

2. Which right in North Carolina's Declaration of Rights do the neighbors use when they meet? Explain how their meeting uses that right.

3. Which First Amendment right does the park group's letter to Congress use? Explain your choice.

4. Name one civic virtue shown at the state meeting and one shown by the national park group. Give an action that shows each virtue.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

State lawmakers are considering shorter library hours across North Carolina. In three sentences, describe a way residents could respond, name a right or principle in North Carolina's 1776 Declaration of Rights that supports their action, and explain how they would show a civic virtue.

ANSWER KEY

Rights in Action

GRADE 5 · 5.P.2.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell what people may do under each historic document. Circle actions that show people using a right or showing a civic virtue. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does North Carolina's Declaration of Rights say about where political power comes from? How does speaking to representatives put that idea to work?	**Political power comes from the people. By telling representatives what needs to change, people have a voice in government.**
2	Which right in North Carolina's Declaration of Rights do the neighbors use when they meet? Explain how their meeting uses that right.	**They use the right to gather and discuss the common good. They meet to seek safer crossings near schools.**
3	Which First Amendment right does the park group's letter to Congress use? Explain your choice.	**It uses the right to ask the government to fix a problem. The group asks Congress to act on litter in a national park.**
4	Name one civic virtue shown at the state meeting and one shown by the national park group. Give an action that shows each virtue.	**At the state meeting, neighbors show respect by listening to families who disagree. The park group shows honesty by checking facts before sending its letter.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Residents could survey families about library hours and send the results to state lawmakers. North Carolina's 1776 Declaration of Rights supports their right to ask lawmakers to fix a problem. Checking the survey results before sending them would show honesty.

Accept other passage-supported rights, principles, or virtues when students explain how an action shows them. For Your Turn, the proposed action must address state lawmakers and connect to the 1776 document.