Park Water Voices

Trace how citizens and national officials shape a law.

5.P.2.1 "Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of government, the benefits of democratic systems, and their responsibilities as citizens..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that show two constitutional principles, circle Lena's informed actions, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside the House, Senate, and president's steps that turn the bill into law.

Who Keeps Park Water Safe?

1. At a national park, Lena sees a sign saying a drinking fountain is closed for water testing. She wonders who decides how to keep park water safe. The Constitution begins with "We the People," showing that government gets its power from the people. Its First Amendment protects the right to petition the government. That means people may ask officials to fix a problem, even if the officials disagree.

2. Lena reads a park water report before writing to her member of the U.S. House of Representatives. She asks for regular tests at national parks and shares the report with neighbors, who discuss it at a public meeting. Her representative introduces a bill. The House and Senate each debate and pass the same bill. The president signs it, making it a federal law.

3. The new law tells the National Park Service, part of the executive branch, to test drinking water at parks. Congress can ask agency leaders how they are carrying out the law. If someone claims the law breaks a constitutional right, a federal court may hear the case. These different powers help keep one part of government from having all the control while citizens continue to speak up.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Lena's representative introducing a bill put “We the People” into action?

2. How does Lena use both a constitutional right and an informed citizen's responsibility?

3. What must the House, Senate, and president each do for the bill in the passage to become law?

4. After the law passes, how can Congress and a federal court each help keep government power in check?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine people want a national law to make mail trucks safer for pedestrians. In four sentences, explain how citizens could learn about the issue and act, how a bill could become law, and which constitutional right protects their action.

ANSWER KEY

Park Water Voices

GRADE 5 · 5.P.2.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that show two constitutional principles, circle Lena's informed actions, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside the House, Senate, and president's steps that turn the bill into law. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Lena's representative introducing a bill put “We the People” into action?	**An elected representative acts on a concern raised by Lena, one of the people the government represents.**
2	How does Lena use both a constitutional right and an informed citizen's responsibility?	**She reads a water report to learn about the issue, then uses her right to petition by writing to her representative.**
3	What must the House, Senate, and president each do for the bill in the passage to become law?	**The House and Senate each pass the same bill, and the president signs it.**
4	After the law passes, how can Congress and a federal court each help keep government power in check?	**Congress can ask agency leaders how they are carrying out the law. A federal court may hear a case claiming the law breaks a constitutional right.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Citizens could read a report about crashes involving mail trucks. They could use their First Amendment right to petition Congress for safer trucks. A member of Congress could introduce a bill, and the House and Senate could each pass it. The president could sign the bill into law.

Accept other informed actions, such as gathering reliable facts before contacting an official. Responses should correctly connect petitioning to the First Amendment and include passage of the same bill by both houses of Congress before the president signs it.