Voices and Choices

Examine how citizens take part in public decisions.

8.C.4.6.B "Examine other political rights and responsibilities of citizens, such as engaging in informed civil discourse and non-violent protest,, serving on juries, and participating in political campaigns."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three different civic actions in the passage. Number them 1, 2, and 3, then circle a detail that shows a responsibility or limit connected to each action.

The Last Evening Bus

1. At a city meeting, residents debate a proposal to end the last evening bus route. Maya's father uses that bus to get home from work, while another resident worries about its cost. Maya checks the transit agency's ridership counts and budget before speaking. She listens to the cost concern, then asks whether a shorter route could save money without leaving workers stranded. Her question uses evidence and takes another view seriously. It helps officials compare the proposal's costs with its effects on neighbors.

2. After the meeting, neighbors organize a peaceful protest outside city hall. They hold signs about late-shift workers and leave the entrance clear so others can pass. A few residents also volunteer for a city council candidate who promises to study bus service. They make calls, share the candidate's plan, and ask voters to compare it with other plans. The protest draws public attention to the issue; campaign work aims to help elect someone who may act on it. Neither action guarantees that the council will keep the bus.

3. Months later, Maya's father receives a summons for jury service in a court case unrelated to the bus. If selected, he must judge that case using evidence presented in court and the judge's instructions, not what he has heard in neighborhood debates. Jury service gives citizens a role in the justice system rather than a way to influence bus policy. Maya is too young to vote or serve on a jury, but she can check claims, speak respectfully, and join a peaceful protest. Different civic actions carry different purposes and duties.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does Maya take the other resident's concern seriously while speaking up for bus riders?

2. How do the protest and the campaign work aim to affect the bus decision in different ways?

3. What detail shows that the neighbors protest without blocking other people from taking part in city business?

4. Why should Maya's father set aside his views about the bus if he is selected for the jury?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town is considering removing a crosswalk near a school. In four or five sentences, explain two different civic actions you could take, how you would check information or respect others, what each action aims to do, and one limit on what the actions can accomplish.

ANSWER KEY

Voices and Choices

GRADE 8 · 8.C.4.6.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three different civic actions in the passage. Number them 1, 2, and 3, then circle a detail that shows a responsibility or limit connected to each action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Maya take the other resident's concern seriously while speaking up for bus riders?	**She checks ridership and budget information, listens to the cost concern, and suggests a shorter route that might save money without stranding workers.**
2	How do the protest and the campaign work aim to affect the bus decision in different ways?	**The protest draws public attention to the bus issue. The campaign work aims to elect a candidate who may act on it.**
3	What detail shows that the neighbors protest without blocking other people from taking part in city business?	**They leave the city hall entrance clear so others can pass.**
4	Why should Maya's father set aside his views about the bus if he is selected for the jury?	**The court case is unrelated to the bus. He must judge it using evidence presented in court and the judge's instructions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

If my town considers removing a crosswalk near a school, I would check traffic reports and ask why officials proposed the change. At a public meeting, I would share what I found and listen to neighbors who disagree. I would also join a peaceful protest that keeps the sidewalk clear. Speaking at the meeting could help officials weigh evidence, while the protest could draw attention to students' safety. Neither action guarantees that the crosswalk will stay.

For the marking job, accept any three distinct civic actions with a relevant responsibility or limit circled for each. For Your Turn, accept other feasible actions if the response distinguishes their purposes and includes the requested information check or respect for others and a realistic limit.